

STALEMATE CONTINUES



Tea Party supporter Greg Cummings of Cincinnati, Ohio, watches a rally with the Democratic Progressive Caucus and furloughed federal employees against House Republicans on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Oct. 4, 2013. Cummings attended the rally to blame Senate Democrats for the government shut-down.

(AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

DAVID ESPO

**AP Special Correspondent
WASHINGTON (AP)** — Prospects for a swift end to the 4-day-old partial U.S. government shutdown all but vanished Friday as law-makers squabbled into the weekend and increasingly shifted their focus to a mid-month deadline for averting a threatened first-ever default.

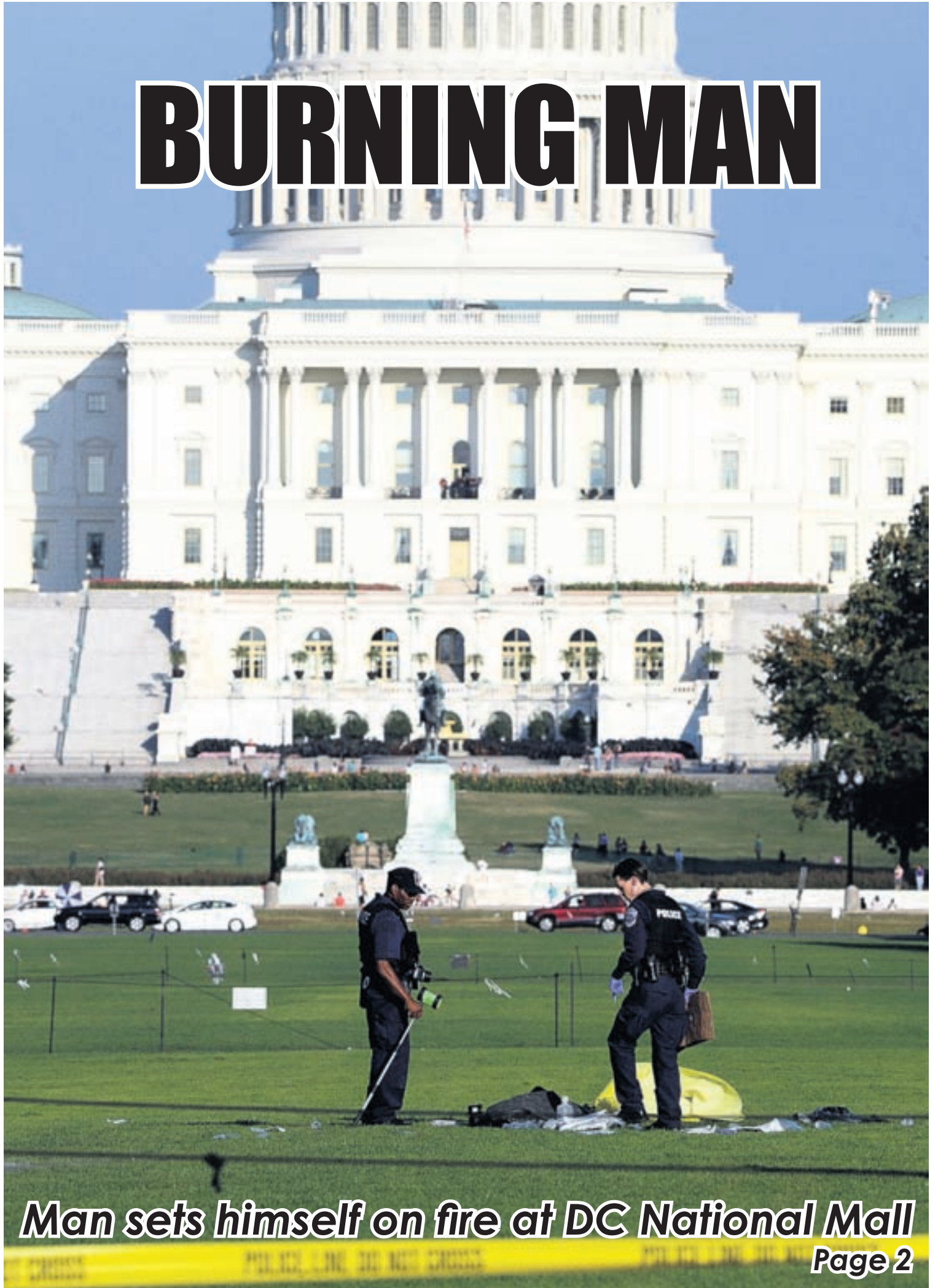
The shutdown caused the White House to scrub a presidential trip to Asia, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics delayed its customary monthly report on joblessness as impacts of the partial shutdown spread.

The shutdown caused the White House to scrub a presidential trip to Asia, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics delayed its customary monthly report on joblessness as impacts of the partial shutdown spread.

"This isn't some damn game," said House Speaker John Boehner, as the White House and Democrats held to their position of agreeing to negotiate only after the government is reopened and the \$16.7 trillion debt limit raised.

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BURNING MAN



Man sets himself on fire at DC National Mall
Page 2

Law enforcement officers investigate the scene on the National Mall in Washington, where, according to a fire official, a man set himself on fire Friday, Oct. 4, 2013. The official said the man was flown by helicopter to a hospital.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Prospect for quick end to US shutdown is remote

Continued from Front

House Republicans appeared to be shifting their demands, de-emphasizing their previous insistence on defunding the health care overhaul in exchange for re-opening the government. Instead, they ramped up calls for cuts in federal benefit programs and future deficits, items that Boehner has said repeatedly will be part of any talks on debt limit legislation.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid also said the two issues were linked. "We not only have a shutdown, but we have the full faith and credit of our nation before us in a week or ten days," he said.

According to warnings by the administration and Wall Street, failure to raise the debt limit, by contrast, had the potential to destabilize financial markets and inflict harm on the economy quickly.

Treasury Secretary Jacob

Lew has said that unless Congress acts, the government will be unable to pay all its debts and will run the risk of default. He has urged lawmakers to act by Oct. 17.

Debt limit bills typically pass first in the House, then move to the Senate. So far, neither Boehner nor the rest of the leadership has said when they expect to draft and have a vote on one. Reid and other Democrats blocked numerous attempts by Sen. Ted Cruz to approve House-passed bills reopening portions of the government. The Texas Republican is a chief architect of the "Defund Obamacare" strategy and met earlier this week with allies in the House and an aide to Majority Leader Eric Cantor to confer on strategy.

In a lengthy back-and-forth with Reid and other Democrats, Cruz blamed them and the White House for the impasse and accused them of a "my way or the highway" attitude.

But Sen. Carl Levin likened the Republican strategy

to "smashing a piece of crockery with a hammer, gluing two or three bits back together today, a couple more tomorrow, and two or three more the day after that."

For all the rhetoric, there was no evident urgency about ending the partial shutdown before the weekend.

The Republican-controlled House approved legislation

restoring funds for federal disaster relief on a vote of 247-164, and moved toward a vote to allow the resumption of the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program. □



Protestors hold signs during a during an event with the Democratic Progressive Caucus and furloughed federal employees on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Oct. 4, 2013, as the budget battle continued. President Barack Obama decided to stay home from economic summits in Asia as Democrats stepped up pressure on congressional Republicans to rein in their tea party faction and reopen the government with no strings attached.

(AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

Man sets himself on fire at DC National Mall

ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man set himself on fire on the National Mall in America's capital as passers-by rushed over to help douse the flames, officials and witnesses said Friday afternoon.

The reason for the self-immolation was not immediately clear and the man's identity was not disclosed. But it occurred in public view, on a central national gathering place, in a city still rattled by a mass shooting last month and a high-speed car chase outside the U.S. Capitol on Thursday that ended with a woman being shot dead by police.

The man on the Mall suffered life-threatening injuries and was airlifted to the hospital, said District of Columbia fire department spokesman Tim Wilson.

He was standing by himself in the center portion of the Mall when he emptied the

contents of a red gasoline can on himself and set himself on fire moments later,

said Katy Schefflen, who witnessed it as she walked across the area. Police say

they responded around 4:20 p.m. Friday.

Schefflen said passing joggers took off their shirts in an effort to help douse the flames, and the man was clearly alive as the fire spread. A police department spokesman said he was conscious and breathing at the scene. MedStar Washington Hospital Center tweeted that the man was taken there and he was in critical condition.

"There was not a lot people could do because it was a gasoline fire," Schefflen said.

She said he may have said something before he acted "but it was nothing intelligible."

Lt. Pamela Smith of the U.S. Park Police, which is investigating along with the D.C. police department, said: "I'm not aware of any signage or any articulation of any causes." □



In this photo provided by Katy Schefflen, people run to a man who set himself on fire on the National Mall in Washington, Friday, Oct. 4, 2013. The reason for the self-immolation was not immediately clear and the man's identity was not disclosed.

(AP Photo/Katy Schefflen)

Karen threatens US during quiet hurricane season

KEVIN McGILL
STACEY PLAISANCE
Associated Press

BRAITHWAITE, La. (AP) — Pickups hauling boat trailers and flatbed trucks laden with crab traps exited vulnerable, low-lying areas of southeast Louisiana on Friday as Tropical Storm Karen headed toward the northern Gulf Coast, a late-arriving worry in what had been a slow hurricane season in the U.S.

On Friday afternoon, Alabama joined Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida in declaring a state of emergency as officials and residents prepared for Karen, expected to near the central Gulf Coast on Saturday as a weak hurricane or tropical storm. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Interior Department recalled workers, furloughed because of the government shut down, to deal with the storm and help state and local agencies. Karen would be the second named storm of a quiet hurricane season to make landfall in the U.S. — the first since Tropical Storm Andrea hit Florida in June. Along with strong winds, the storm was forecast to produce rainfall of 3 to 6 inches through Sunday night. Isolated rain totals of up to 10 inches were possible. As of 8 p.m. EDT Friday, Karen was about 235 miles (378 kilometers) south-southwest of the mouth of the Mississippi River, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. It had been nearly stationary for several hours, with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (80 kph). Forecast tracks showed the storm possibly crossing the southeast Louisiana coast before veering eastward toward south Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. But forecasters cautioned that the track was uncertain.

"We are confident on a northeastward turn. Just not exactly sure where or when that turn will occur," said Rick Knabb, director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Conditions were not ripe

for the storm's strengthening. A hurricane watch was dropped Friday afternoon. A tropical storm watch stretched from the mouth of the Pearl River to Destin, Fla. A tropical storm warning was in effect from Morgan City, La., to the mouth of the Pearl, which extends from Mississippi to far-eastern Louisiana.

A westward tick in the earlier forecast tracks prompted officials in Plaquemines Parish, La., an area inundated last year by slow-

moving Hurricane Isaac in 2012, to order mandatory evacuations, mostly on the east bank of the Mississippi River. The parish, home to oil field service businesses and fishing marinas, juts out into the Gulf of Mexico from the state's southeastern tip.

"The jog to the west has got us concerned that wind will be piling water on the east bank levees," said Guy Laigast, head of emergency operations in the parish. Overtopping

was not expected, but the evacuations were ordered as a precaution, he said.

Forecasters were not expecting Karen to stall, as Isaac did last year.

Evacuations also were ordered on Grand Isle, a barrier island community where the only route out is a single flood-prone highway, and in coastal Lafourche Parish.

Traffic at the mouth of the Mississippi River was stopped Friday morning in advance of the storm,

and passengers aboard two Carnival Cruise ships bound for weekend arrivals in New Orleans were told they may not arrive until Monday. In New Orleans, Sheriff Marlin Gusman announced that he had moved more than 400 inmates from temporary tent facilities to safer state lockups as a precaution. Mayor Mitch Landrieu said a city emergency operations center would begin around-the-clock operations Friday evening. □



Tony Danos, left, and C.J. Johnson pull a shrimp boat out of the water, in anticipation of Tropical Storm Karen, at Myrtle Grove Marina in Plaquemines Parish, La., Friday, Oct. 4, 2013. National Hurricane Center forecasters expect Karen to be near the central Gulf Coast on Saturday as a weak hurricane or tropical storm. Along with strong winds, the storm was expected to produce rainfall of 3 to 6 inches through Sunday night, with isolated totals up to 10 inches possible. Forecast tracks showed it possibly brushing, or crossing, the southeast Louisiana coast before veering eastward toward south Alabama and the Florida panhandle. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

Attorney denies California man ran drug website

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A San Francisco man denies charges that he operated an encrypted website where users could anonymously shop for drugs such as heroin and LSD, his attorney said on Friday.

"We deny all charges. That's the end of the discussion," said federal public defender Brandon LeBlanc, who is representing defendant Ross Ulbricht.

The denial came after Ulbricht, looking calm, appeared in federal court

in shackles and red prison clothes for a bail hearing. LeBlanc asked U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph Spero to postpone the hearing, saying the case was complex.

Spero granted the request and rescheduled the hearing for Oct. 9.

Ulbricht has been charged in New York with narcotics trafficking, computer hacking and money laundering in connection with the website known as Silk Road, which is believed to

have collected more than \$1 billion in revenue.

He is also charged in Maryland with arranging to pay someone to kill a witness.

FBI agents arrested the 29-year-old San Francisco resident — allegedly known online as Dread Pirate Roberts — on Tuesday in the science fiction section of a small branch of the San Francisco public library, where he was chatting online.

The arrest came after a federal investigation that

began in 2011. Agents said they determined Ulbricht was "altoid," someone who was posting information about Silk Road on other drug-related websites under federal surveillance.

Since then, Ulbricht's online behavior has been tracked, and agents slowly gathered evidence that allegedly connected him to Silk Road.

If convicted, Ulbricht could be sentenced to life in prison. □

Obama's no-show in Asia a boost for China

GILLIAN

ROBERT BURNS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

President Barack Obama's decision to scrap his Asia trip is a setback for his much-advertised pledge to shift the focus of foreign policy to the Pacific and a boost for China's attempt to gain influence in the region.

By staying home because of the partial government shutdown, Obama hands new Chinese leader Xi Jinping a chance to fill the void at two Asian summits Obama had planned to attend.

It's the third time since 2010 that Obama has cancelled an Asia trip, all because of domestic political crises.

Washington's budget crisis has reached the point where the White House felt compelled to skip Asia, giving Obama room to work with Congress on reopening the government.

Had Obama left to attend

WONG

the meetings, it would have given weight to critics who have said he's more willing to negotiate with foreign leaders than the speaker of the House.

Secretary of State John Kerry will represent him at the summits in Indonesia and Brunei.

Budget strains had already put a damper on the Pentagon's push to assert itself in the Pacific, and administration officials had begun casting the shift in policy more in terms of expanding diplomatic efforts, creating more trade and economic ties and just showing up in Asia more often.

Now the showing up part has taken a hit.

The Syria crisis is only the latest example of how Obama's foreign policy is still drawn to the Middle East.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel was in Asia last month when Washington was drawn to the brink of

military intervention before Syria agreed to give up its chemical weapons arsenal, diverting Hagel's attention.

The situation works for Chi-

influence. Xi has been visiting Indonesia and Malaysia this week to improve Beijing's reputation at a time when its aggressive stance on territorial issues

cal paralysis gives Xi a freer hand to become the big presence in the room.

"It shows that China has a functional government and America doesn't at the moment," said Kerry Brown, a China expert at the University of Sydney in Australia. "It's just another sign that America is kind of losing its luster, losing its status."

In announcing Obama's decision Thursday, White House press secretary Jay Carney said the government shutdown is "setting back our ability to create jobs through promotion of U.S. exports and advance U.S. leadership and interests in the largest emerging region in the world."

Even so, he said, Obama is committed "to the rebalancing of our policy" toward the Asia-Pacific and looks forward to going at another time. Obama has made five trips to Asia as president. □



President Barack Obama speaks in Rockville, Md. The president has called off a trip to Asia just as China's president is being feted in regional capitals ahead of summits where the U.S. no-show will give China a chance to shine and boost its influence. The cancellation of Obama's trip because of the partial government shutdown will also undermine the Obama administration's much-advertised "pivot" to Asia after a decade of war in the greater Middle East.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak, File)

na, which is rapidly modernizing its armed forces and boosting its regional

has strained ties with some countries in southeast Asia. Washington's acute politi-

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Official: Woman killed in US chase was delusional

ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A woman shot to death by police outside the Capitol building after she tried to drive through barricades outside the White House held the delusional belief that the president was communicating with her, a federal law enforcement official said Friday.

The official had been briefed on the investigation but spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak publicly about the ongoing investigation.

A harrowing car chase unfolded Thursday after the driver rammed the barricades, briefly shuttering the chambers where federal lawmakers were debating how to end a government shutdown and stirred fresh panic in a city where a gunman two weeks ago killed 12 people.

The driver, 34-year-old Miriam Carey, of Stamford, Connecticut, is believed to have traveled directly to Washington immediately before the car chase, the official said. A 1-year-old girl was in the car, though she avoided serious injury and was taken into protective custody.

Investigators have been interviewing Carey's family about her mental condition, which had been deteriorating over the past 10 months, the official said. The woman had made delusional "expressions about the president in the past" and "believed there was some communications to her," and concerns about her mental health were reported in the last year to Stamford police, the official said.

Carey's mother, Idella Carey, told ABC News on

Thursday night that her daughter began suffering from postpartum depression after giving birth to her daughter, Erica, in August 2012. "A few months later, she got sick," she said. "She was depressed. ... She was hospitalized."

Idella Carey said her daughter had "no history of violence," and she didn't know why she was in Washington on Thursday. She said she thought Carey was taking Erica to a doctor's appointment in Connecticut.

Her sisters say they want to know why she had to die. Amy Carey-Jones said on CNN on Friday there should've been "another way instead of shooting and killing an individual."

Valerie Carey says she "did not deserve to have her life cut down."

Connecticut records show Carey had been a licensed dental hygienist since 2009. Records show the license expired on Thursday.

Dr. Brian Evans, a periodontist in Hamden, Connecticut, said Carey worked as a hygienist in his office for about two years before she was fired a year ago. He would not go into detail about the reasons surrounding her departure.

He said Carey had been away from the job for a period after falling down a staircase and suffering a head injury, and she learned she was pregnant during the time she was hospitalized. He said it was a few weeks after she returned to the office that she was fired.

Police said there appeared to be no direct link to terrorism, and there was no indication the woman was even armed. Capitol Police Chief Kim Dine, whose officers have been working



A federal agent removes evidence from the apartment complex where Miriam Carey is believed to have lived in Stamford, Conn., Friday, Oct. 4, 2013. Law-enforcement authorities have identified Carey, 34, as the woman who, with a 1-year-old child in her car, led Secret Service and police on a harrowing chase in Washington from the White House past the Capitol Thursday, attempting to penetrate the security barriers at both national landmarks before she was shot to death, police said. The child survived.

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

without pay as a result of the shutdown, called it an "isolated, singular matter."

Still, tourists, congressional staff and even some senators watched anxiously as a caravan of law enforcement vehicles chased a black Infiniti with Connecticut license plates down Constitution Avenue outside the Capitol and as officers with high-powered firearms canvassed the area. The House of Representatives and Senate both abruptly suspended business, a lawmaker's speech cut off in mid-sentence, as the Capitol Police broadcast a message over its emergency radio system telling people to stay in place and move away from the windows. □



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Gender equality among issues at Mormon conference



People walk to the Conference Center before the start of the Annual General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in Salt Lake City. An ongoing debate about the limited role of women within the Mormon faith will take its place alongside sermons and announcements during a weekend church conference that brings 100,000 members to Utah.

(AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

BRADY McCOMBS
 Associated Press
 SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — An ongoing debate about the limited role of women within the Mormon faith will

take its place alongside sermons and announcements during a weekend church conference that brings 100,000 members to Utah.

Women can hold many leadership positions in The Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-day Saints, but they can't be bishops of congregations or presidents

of stakes, which include a dozen congregations.

The church's highest leaders, called the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, includes only men.

The two-day, general conference of the church brings members together to hear inspirational words from church leaders and to learn about new temples or initiatives.

Nobody outside the church's inner circle knows what might be announced, but there is a buzz surrounding a demonstration planned Saturday by a feminist Mormon women's group called Ordain Women.

To highlight what they deem as gender inequality within the faith, women are expected to join a standby line for tickets to an all-male meeting of church priesthood holders, said Kate Kelly, the group's founder.

Church officials declined their previous request for tickets but announced recently that the session will be broadcast live for the first time. Church officials say the move aims to make the meeting accessible to all members around the globe.

The session is reserved for members of the priesthood, which includes most males in the church who are 12 and older. Session broadcasts were previously password-protected.

Kelly called the move an important step forward but said women want to attend the meeting.

"We're hoping to demonstrate with our actions and our bodies that we are ready not only for the blessings, but the responsibility of the priesthood," said Kelly, an international human rights lawyer in Washington, D.C., and the founder of Ordain Women. □

NJ to start Internet gambling

WAYNE PARRY
 Associated Press
 ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Residents and visitors will be able to start gambling online on Nov. 26 in New Jersey, after a five-day trial period to make sure the systems operated by Atlantic City's 12 casinos work properly.

The state Gaming Enforcement Division told The Associated Press on Friday that the casinos may begin a "soft play" period on Nov. 21 for invited guests. If all goes well, the casinos can begin full Internet gambling on Nov. 26.

Gamblers would have to be physically located within New Jersey's boundaries in order to play. New Jersey

will be the third state in the U.S. to offer online gambling, along with Nevada and Delaware.

Online gambling is designed to give the struggling casinos new revenue, though some worry the in-person business will simply migrate to computers, leading to casino job losses. Atlantic City's casino revenue has plunged from a high of \$5.2 billion in 2006 to a little more than \$3 billion last year and could dip below the \$3 billion mark by the end of this year. Thousands of casino jobs have been lost already as many gamblers choose options closer to their homes in Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland. □



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US Financial Front:

Government shutdown ruins vacations, hurts local economies

FELICIA FONSECA

Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Arizona (AP)

— Stop at a cafe in the remote stretches of Arizona and Utah in autumn, and you're likely to hear a mix of languages as tourists from around the world step into the iconic western landscape, marked by breathtaking canyons and massive rock formations. Millions of visitors tour the region each year for what can be once-in-a-lifetime vacations.

Those visitors didn't stop with the government shutdown, which stems from a fight over President Barack Obama's health care law and forced officials to close down roads, campgrounds and tourist centers at national parks dotting the landscape.

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer has offered to use state money to keep the Grand Canyon open, and several businesses made similar pledges — all of which have been politely rejected by the national park.

The impact isn't just ruining holidays. It also has brought local economies to a near standstill.

Outside Yellowstone's north entrance, two men on a bus with Indian and Chinese passengers frown and give the thumbs down sign after seeing the park is shut down. A family of Japanese tourists leaves the Grand Canyon in tears. An English couple and a Belgium couple touring national parks out West settles for a drive around Yosemite without being able to put their feet on the ground.

"Looks as though both sides are having a bit of a childish tantrum," says Englishman Neil Stanton.

Songyi Cho, on a separate

trip to Yosemite, says: "This is crazy. How can a whole government shut down?"

While some international tourists kept tabs on American politics in the days before they ventured to national parks, others were blindsided.

Alan Platt and his wife, Leana, first heard about a possible shutdown while at the Grand Canyon on Monday. Platt guessed that lawmakers would be pushed to the brink but pass a budget by the deadline. He was wrong, and the couple was forced to cut their three-day Grand Canyon stay short.

Some of the most recognizable U.S. icons can be viewed from a distance — the full faces of Mount Rushmore, Devils Tower, the granite formations in Yosemite, the Grand Canyon and Mount Rainier. No one needs to tell tourists that it's not the same as camping on the beaches of the Colorado River, walking the slot canyons at Zion or watching water spew at Old Faithful in Yellowstone.

"There's no question it's disappointing," says Bruce Brossman of the Grand Canyon Railway, which has furloughed conductors and engineers who run trains into the canyon. "You can get a sneak peak and maybe get inspired to come back."

Returning to the national parks might be easier said than done, particularly for international tourists who often plan expensive and lengthy vacations.

Jock Holland, of Melbourne, Australia, is among those forced to make alternate plans. He was heading to Grand Teton from Yellowstone when he was



The Lincoln Memorial, and most of the federal government, is closed in Washington. The museums that draw millions of visitors to the National Mall closed their doors this week, memorials were barricaded and trash will go uncollected in the nation's most-visited national park due to the first government shutdown in 17 years.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

stopped by the park closure. He planned to chart a new course after grabbing a bite to eat in Jack-

son, Wyo. The Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau outside the national park helped Stanton and his wife, Clare,

set up horseback rides and hikes outside. He says Yosemite has "been somewhat on our bucket list for years, and you get here and you can't get to it. A bit frustrating but we still made the most of it."

Julie Jaeger and her friend are leaving California on Friday for what would have been a trip to Zion, Bryce Canyon, the Grand Canyon's North Rim, Canyonlands and Mesa Verde national parks. They've renamed their vacation the "magical mystery tour," as they search for state parks and interesting towns to visit along the way. They still hope the federal government resumes operations and they can salvage part of their original itinerary. □

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Germany's Merkel in talks with possible coalition partners

MELISSA EDDY

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BERLIN - Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and representatives of her

out each side's willingness to compromise in formal negotiations, members of Merkel's Christian Democrats and the center-left

"My impression was that there is an earnest desire to live up to voters' and Europeans' expectations that we build a stable govern-

ment," Hermann Gröhe, secretary-general of Merkel's party, told reporters after the talks.

Over the course of three hours, the two sides explored a range of issues, from European policy - including the euro - to infrastructure spending, energy and the labor market and taxes. They agreed to meet for a second round in 10 days.

Before the two sides meet again, Merkel's party will hold talks with representatives of the Greens next Thursday. While many conservatives have said they would prefer a coalition with the Greens, expectations are low, given the leadership crisis in that party after its poor showing in the elections. The two sides are deeply divided on several issues, including how to replace nuclear energy with power from renewable sources.

The chancellor's conserva-

tive bloc of her Christian Democrats, together with the Bavaria-only Christian Social Union, fell five seats short of a clear majority in Germany's lower house of Parliament in the vote on Sept. 22. Her previous coalition partner, the Free Democratic Party, failed to reach the necessary 5 percent to earn representation.

The Social Democrats appear to be the chancellor's most likely partners. The parties joined forces during Merkel's first term, from 2005 to 2009, in what is known as a "grand coalition" of the country's two strongest political forces. But many in the center-left party are wary of entering into another such partnership. They fear such an alliance will cost them support, pointing to their disastrous showing in the 2009 election, when they received only 23 percent of the vote. □



German Chancellor Angela Merkel chairwoman of the Christian Democratic party CDU arrives for preliminary talks after last month's election on forming Germany's next government, in Berlin, Friday, Oct. 4, 2013. The two parties CDU and CSU that make up the conservative Union bloc and the SPD are expected to discuss how much common ground there is to create a "grand coalition" like the one that governed Germany during Merkel's first term from 2005 to 2009.

(AP Photo/Kay Nieffeld)

conservative bloc began the first in a series of exploratory talks with potential coalition partners Friday, amid a growing sense of urgency from all sides about the danger of leaving Berlin rudderless for too long. Before the talks, which were aimed at sounding

Social Democratic Party warned against political posturing. The chancellor has stressed repeatedly that the politicians have a duty to come to an agreement after elections last month, a sentiment echoed by senior members of her party.

Ireland votes on abolishing its senate

DOUGLAS DALBY

© 2013 New York Times

DUBLIN - Ireland's voters had a chance Friday to accomplish what some American voters, with their government partly shut down, might only dream of: abolishing one house of the legislature. And they were expected to vote to do so.

The Irish voted on separate constitutional amendments to abolish the upper house of Parliament, the Seanad, or senate, and to create a new appellate court. Results were expected Saturday.

The debate over the Seanad turned on money and utility. The Irish government argued that the upper house, its members mostly appointed by

the governing party and loosely based on the British House of Lords, was fundamentally elitist, and in any case, too expensive.

Unlike the U.S. Senate, the 60-member Seanad cannot block laws passed by the lower house, only delay them.

Since its establishment under the 1937 Constitution, the Seanad has been the subject of regular demands for reform, but little changed, despite numerous official reports with radical recommendations.

Senators argue that the move is nothing but a naked power grab by the government and Prime Minister Enda Kenny masquerading as a cost-saving exercise.

One better-known senator,

Feargal Quinn, a former business executive, has berated the government for refusing to even consider an overhaul and for running a campaign largely based on the 20 million euros it says the country will save if the upper house is eradicated.

"Shutting half our Parliament is not the correct response to economic collapse," Quinn said. "Shutting half our Parliament only shuts down oversight and shuts out new voices. That's no way to run a country."

The government's director of elections, Minister for Jobs Richard Bruton, said that the Seanad was beyond reform, terming it an expensive, elitist, ineffective luxury the country could no longer afford. □



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Egyptian riot police, protesters clash as tear gas flies

TONY G. GABRIEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian riot police fired volleys of tear gas and locked down Cairo's Tahrir Square Friday as clashes broke out in a rare push by Islamist supporters of the ousted president to take control of the iconic square, leaving at least four dead.

With lines of armored vehicles and barbed wire, troops sealed off the square and diverted traffic after the Muslim Brotherhood, the group from which ousted president Mohammed Morsi hails, called on its supporters to march there.

Thousands of Morsi's supporters followed suit from different parts in the city, chanting "El-Sissi is the enemy of God" and "Down with the murderer!"

Those were references to Defense Minister Abdel-Fatah el-Sissi, who forced Morsi from power on July

3 after millions took to the streets demanding the Islamist leader step down.

In its statements, the Muslim Brotherhood called Tahrir Square "the capital of the revolution." It is the birthplace of the 2011 uprising that forced longtime president Hosni Mubarak from power and led to Morsi's short-lived tenure.

Since Morsi's ouster, nearly 2,000 Muslim Brotherhood members have been arrested, its top leaders referred to courts over charges of inciting murder and violence, and hundreds of Morsi supporters have been killed. Morsi himself has been detained incommunicado. On Friday, authorities arrested Ahmed Soubaei, a spokesman for the Freedom and Justice party, the Brotherhood's political arm, after raiding his house, the group said on its official website.

In a reflection of the chaos, the spokesman of the



A supporter of Egypt's ousted President Mohammed Morsi holds bricks during clashes on the Al-Malek Al-Saleh bridge in Cairo, Egypt, Friday, Oct. 4, 2013. Egyptian riot police fired volleys of tear gas and locked down Cairo's Tahrir Square and several other main streets Friday as clashes briefly broke out in what appeared to be a rare push by Islamist supporters of ousted president take control of the square.

(AP Photo/Hamada Elrasam)

liberal al-Doustour party Khaled Dawoud came under attack when he drove past a group of pro-Morsi

supporters marching on a street near Tahrir Square. The assailants dragged him from his car, beat him and

stabbed him in the arm, Dawoud was quoted as telling the state-run Al-Ahram news site. □

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Fisherman: migrants too weak to grab lifesavers

ANDREA ROSA
COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

LAMPEDUSA, Italy (AP) — The friends were heading out on a fishing trip, when one heard voices from the sea. Don't be silly, Vito Fiorino told him — it's only the seagulls' early morning song. Then, about 500 yards (meters) from shore, he saw heads bobbing in the water.

Dozens of Africans were floating, too weak to grab a life preserver and so slippery from gasoline that it was hard to pull them

on board. Some grasped empty water bottles to stay afloat.

"It was a scene from a film, something you hope never to see in life," he told The Associated Press. "They were exhausted. When I threw the lifesaver, they had a hard time doing two strokes to reach it."

Fiorino says he and his friends were the first to reach the fiery wreck around 7 a.m. Thursday, sounding the alarm and saving 47 people before the Coast Guard and other vessels arrived to help,



Lampedusa citizens attend a torch light procession in the island of Lampedusa, Italy, Friday, Oct. 4, 2013. A ship carrying African migrants toward Italy caught fire and capsized off the Sicilian island of Lampedusa Thursday, spilling hundreds of passengers into the sea, officials said.

(AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

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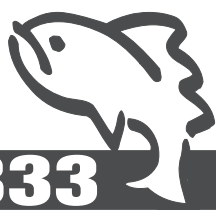


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eventually rescuing a total of 155 people. The migrants told Fiorino they had been in the water for three hours. The scope of the tragedy at Lampedusa — with 111 bodies recovered so far and more than 200 missing, according to survivor accounts given to U.N. officials — has prompted outpourings of grief and calls for a comprehensive EU immigration policy to deal with the tens of thousands fleeing poverty and strife in Africa and the Middle East. On a pilgrimage to Assisi, Pope Francis called the tragedy a "day of tears" and denounced a "savage" system he said drives people to leave their homes for a better life and turns a blind eye when they die in the process.

Lampedusa, a tiny island 70 miles (113 kilometers) off Tunisia and closer to Africa than the Italian mainland, has been at the center of wave after wave of illegal

immigration. The island's mayor, Giusi Nicolini, said she had hoped the pope's visit there earlier this year would draw attention to the issue and lead to policy changes.

Instead, Thursday's tragedy may prove to be the biggest loss of life involving migrants undertaking the treacherous journey across the Mediterranean, where such deaths are all too common and often are impossible to verify because bodies are lost far out at sea and never found.

"Here it is all within 600 meters of shore and we will have more clarity," said Laurens Jolles, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees representative in Italy.

More often, unseaworthy vessels limp to shore with many dead on board, including one recent incident with 63 bodies on a boat with seven survivors. Remote and far from the Italian mainland, Lampe-

dusa was ill-equipped to deal with such a staggering death toll: Four hearses arrived on an overnight ferry and caskets had to be flown in.

According to survivor accounts, the group of some 500 migrants who boarded the rickety trawler had been living together in the same building in the Libyan capital of Tripoli for three months. Almost all were from Eritrea and all had the same goal of reaching Europe, said Barbara Molinaro, a UNHCR public information officer.

"They boarded the same boat and were at sea for two days. At 4 in the morning of the third day, they spotted land. They felt safe, because they thought they had made it. They saw the lights from land," she said. But the boat's engine had died and they were trapped in a rocky bay where they couldn't land, Molinaro said. □



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Deadly riots in Kenya after cleric's killing

JOSH KRON

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NAIROBI, Kenya - Deadly riots broke out in the coastal city of Mombasa on Friday morning after a popular but controversial Muslim cleric was fatally shot in what his followers said they believed was an attack by state security services.

Four people were confirmed dead and seven injured in the unrest, according to the Kenya Red Cross, and a church was set ablaze. The violence unleashed bubbling religious tensions in the wake of the terrorist attack last month on a shopping mall in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, which left more than 60 people dead and investigators grasping for answers. The cleric, Sheik Ibrahim Ismail, was killed Thursday night along with three others when their car was sprayed with bullets as they drove along Mombasa's palm-fringed coastal highway. Ismail's predecessor, Sheik Aboud Rogo Mohammed, a radical cleric, was killed last year in similar circumstances. Rogo had been linked to al-Shabab, the Somali Islamist militant group behind the Nairobi mall attack. By late Friday morning, after prayer services, Muslim youths were pouring out of the mosque where Ismail had preached, throwing together makeshift furniture barricades in the streets, according to witnesses reached by telephone. □

Syria:

Rebel groups battle each other in north

BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Al-Qaida militants battled fighters linked to the Western-backed opposition along with Kurdish gunmen in Syrian towns along the Turkish border on Friday, in clashes that killed at least 19 people, activists said.

The violence is part of an outburst of infighting among the myriad rebel groups opposed to Syrian President Bashar Assad for control over prized border areas. Islamic extremist fighters and more mainstream rebels are increasingly turning their guns on each other in what has effectively become a war within a war in northern and eastern Syria, leaving hundreds dead on both sides.

Turkey has been a staunch supporter of the rebels seeking to topple Assad, and has allowed the flow of weapons, men and supplies through border crossings into Syria.

In an interview with Turkey's private Halk TV, Assad said Turkey will pay a "high price" for allowing foreign fighters to enter Syria from its territory. "You cannot hide terrorists in your pocket. They are like a scorpion, which will eventually sting you," Assad added.

The interview, broadcast late Thursday, was the latest given by the Syrian president to foreign me-

dia as part of a charm offensive in the wake of the Russian-brokered deal that averted the threat of a U.S.

people.

Assad said it was still too early to say whether he'll run for re-election next

feels that is what most Syrians want him to do. He said "the picture will be clearer" in the next four to five months because Syria is going through "rapid" changes on the ground.

"If I have a feeling that the Syrian people want me to be president in the coming period, I will run for the post," Assad said. "If the answer is no, I will not run and I don't see a problem in that." Assad has been president since 2000. He took over after the death of his father and predecessor, Hafez Assad, who ruled for three decades.

Syria's opposition wants Assad to step down and hand over power to a transitional government until new elections are held. □



A Syrian man walks among rubble of destroyed residential buildings minutes after an airstrike hit in the Syrian province of Hama. (AP Photo)

airstrike over an August chemical weapons attack that killed hundreds of

year, but suggested he would refrain from seeking a third term — if he



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Twins galore in Havana have people doing double-takes

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Some say it could be something in the water. Others point to a tree with mystical significance for locals. Maybe it's just chance.

But neighbors all marvel at the 12 sets of twins living along two consecutive blocks in western Havana, ranging in age from newborns to senior citizens.

"We were the first ones," said Fe Fernandez, 65, who wears her gray hair closely cropped.

"It's incredible!" said her identical sister, Esperanza, who shares the same features but whose black-dyed hair falls to shoulder length.

At first blush there isn't much about 68-A Street to mark it as different from anywhere else in the city. Children play ballgames in the rugged road nearly free of traffic, as tropical music floats out from behind graceful porches and balustrades.

But if you spend any amount of time here, before long you might think you're seeing double.

"Hi, I'm Carla, and this is my sister Camila," said Carla Rodriguez, a smiley, bespectacled 9-year-old. "We're twins and we love living on this block because we have twin friends."

"I never expected it. No fertility treatments. It was my first pregnancy, and at five weeks they did an ultrasound and I was carrying twins," said Tamara Velazquez, who's been busy raising 6-year-old identical sisters Asley and Aslen.

"It's a lot of work. It requires a lot of patience," Velazquez said. "They are very active and dominant, although each has a different character."

Ten of the twin sets here are identical, and the other two fraternal. None of the mothers interviewed by The Associated Press said they had received fertility treatments. None of the families are related to each other.

All but one of the sets were born into these homes,

and the lone newcomers moved into a house that was vacated by twins who moved to Spain. Others have died or moved away over the years.

"Twins leave, twins come," Fe Fernandez joked.

The 70 or so houses on these two short blocks are home to around 224 people, extrapolating from national statistics on average household size.

That works out to about one set of twins for every 20 people. Historically the rate has been about one per 80 live births, though experts say that's rising globally, primarily in developed countries where fertility treatments are more readily available.

It's impossible to say what could be behind the high number of twins here, or whether there is any cause

at all.

Scientists say a variety of factors play into twin births, such as race, the mother's age and diet. Western Africa, from where many Afro-Cubans can trace their ancestry, has significantly elevated rates of twinning. Meanwhile statisticians caution against the human tendency to seek patterns of serendipity in a random world.

"Something could definitely be there, it could be a combination of various factors," Andrew Gelman, a statistics professor at Columbia University, said via email. "In addition, opportunistic counting can make a small and natural pattern appear larger."

For example focusing on these two blocks without considering other surrounding ones, he added, "puts the spotlight on a small subset."

While there's been no scholarly study of the twins on 68-A Street, they nonetheless consider themselves part of a special community. Some look to faith for an explanation.

"There are neighbors who are religious. Many say it's the Siguaraya tree, which people ask for things and is in one of the homes," Fe Fernandez said.

"The people believe in it strongly."

Leafy and embellished with delicate white blossoms, the Siguaraya is considered sacred in the syncretic Afro-Cuban Sante-ria faith and is associated with a powerful "orisha," or spirit.

Others, like Mercedes Montero, mother of 21-year-old Xavier and Lorena, chalk it up to the luck of the draw.

"It's a very big coincidence," Montero said, "one of those strange things in life." □



Pairs of twins pose for a group portrait near a Siguaraya tree along their street in Havana, Cuba. While there's been no scholarly study of the twins on 68-A Street, some look to faith for an explanation. "Many say it's the Siguaraya tree, which people ask for things and is in one of the homes," said Fe Fernandez, one of the twins. "The people believe in it strongly."

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

Jamaican woman wins dispute over body search

TONY FRASER

Associated Press

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — A Jamaican woman won damages against the government of Barbados on Friday over her treatment at the airport as she tried to enter the country.

The Caribbean Court of Justice awarded Shanique Myrie the equivalent of nearly \$38,000 and ruled that she had been wrongfully denied entry into Barbados.

A panel of judges determined that Myrie had been subjected to a "humiliating cavity search," unlawfully detained and improperly

denied entry.

The court rejected her claim that she had been discriminated against because of her nationality, deciding instead that Barbados had violated a treaty allowing the free movement of citizens among Caribbean Community member states. She had been seeking the equivalent of \$500,000, in part to compensate for what she said was psychological trauma. The Caribbean Court of Justice, established as the court of appeal for Caribbean Community member states in 2001, is charged in part with enforcing the treaty. The government of

Barbados argued that the treaty does not prohibit member states from ensuring that people meet the requirements for entry. Sharon Saunders, the Jamaican high commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, said the court decision was "a landmark" and placed limits on the power of immigration officers.

"In principle, this has been a victory for Shanique Myrie because it validated her claims and that was indeed the objective. The award of the damages was secondary," Saunders said outside the court's headquarters in Port-of-

Spain.

Myrie was stopped at the Grantley Adams International Airport in Barbados in March 2011 by a police officer who suspected she was a drug courier. Immigration authorities detained her overnight because she allegedly provided false information about where she would stay while in the country and then expelled her.

The police officer who questioned Myrie at the airport testified in the case, denying that she mistreated the woman, made derogatory comments about Jamaicans or subjected her to a cavity search. □



At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa:

Generous Goodwill Donations Presented to Local Foundations



PALM BEACH - This past Wednesday, during the resort's Managers' Cocktail Party, General Manager Mark Lyttleton-Frances and his team presented six generous checks to local not-for-profit foundations in the presence of the resort's social-conscious guests who helped raise the funds. Glenn Farro, Director of Human Resources reports the recipients of donations were FAVI, an organization working on behalf of the visually impaired, Fundacion Hende Muher Den Dificultad, operating a local women's shelter where victims of domestic abuse find refuge, mental, spiritual and financial support, Famia Planea, promoting access to birth control information and contraceptives, nurturing the sexual health of our community, Imelda Hof, the children's foster home in Noord, Casa Cuna, the baby and toddlers' foster home in Balashi, and Ban Duna Un Man Pa Cria Nos Muchanan, a grass root organization of hospital workers providing free breakfast daily, to hundreds of underprivileged school-children on the island. The gathering was emotive and heartwarming as each foundation made a short presentation, thanking the benefactors and explaining the organization's mission and needs. Resort guests in attendance truly appreciated the impromptu speeches, and the General Manager's address, as he thanked his guests who over the past year demonstrated great generosity. Pictured here, the Mira Solo Martini Bar event, on Wednesday, during the Managers' Cocktail Party with representatives of the local foundations and their



checks.

It should also be noted that the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa associates make monthly donations to Ban Duna Un Man Pa Cria

Nos Muchanan and that the other foundations are often on the receiving end for donations following the resort's annual charity golf tournament and seasonal fundraising drives. □



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clients will enjoy deferred payments until the end of March, 2014, and there will be a chance to win 3 Crazy Raffles, with prizes including a certificate of Awg 2,500 for gas, a GPS Car Alarm System and 1 year of insurance, up to a maximum value of Awg 2,500, covered by Aruba Bank.

To entertain the public, especially the kids, several activities will be available at the Kids Corner such as Dino Jump and more. DJ 101 will also be present to get everyone in the mood with his infectious music, creating a great atmosphere. Visit your preferred car and motorcycle dealer today to choose your favorite model and apply online at www.arubabank.com.

Mark your calendars for the 20th of October and come enjoy great fun, most importantly, take advantage of the special deals to buy the car of your dreams, with the help of Aruba Bank. □



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a pleasant time with your staff, colleagues, and your friends and of course for everyone you want to experience this cozy event with. At 2pm, DJ. Joop will start this party with lots of party music. At 5pm the Aruban band Bambu will rock the stage with popular songs.

And last but not least, at 8pm the number one party band Sleeves from Curacao will make this an unforgettable day!! During the day, catering Macamba's Tuintje, will take care of typical German food.

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Red Sox jump on Rays miscues, win ALDS opener 12-2

JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) -- One ball fell between two outfielders. Another took a bad hop off the Green Monster standers. One batter reached safely on a dropped third strike and another when the pitcher was slow to cover first.

By the time it was over, the Boston Red Sox had scored five runs in the fourth inning, taking advantage of Tampa Bay's bad luck and bad defense to overcome an early deficit and beat the Rays 12-2 on Friday in Game 1 of the AL division series.

"You play 162 games, a lot of innings, a lot of pitches, a lot of runs. One thing you can guarantee in the play-offs is you're going to see something you haven't seen all year," said Jonny Gomes, who doubled to tie the game and then scored from second on an infield single to give Boston the lead for good.



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Jon Lester follows through against the Tampa Bay Rays in the first inning in Game 1 of baseball's American League division series, Friday, Oct. 4, 2013, in Boston.

Continued on next page

Associated Press

Nadal, Djokovic, Serena reach China Open semis

BEIJING (AP) — Rafael Nadal stayed on course to wrest the top ranking from Novak Djokovic by rallying for a 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 win over Fabio Fognini of Italy in the China Open quarterfinals on Friday.

Nadal, who needs to reach the final to have a chance of regaining No. 1 for the first time in two years, was down a set and a break but changed the tempo with a timely service break. Defending champion Djokovic progressed with an impressive 6-1, 6-2 win

over American Sam Querrey in just 53 minutes.

Also, top-ranked Serena Williams brushed aside former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki 6-1, 6-4 to raise her record to 6-1 against the Dane and set up a next-round clash with No. 4-ranked Agnieszka Radwanska.

Nadal seemed to struggle at times with a niggling left knee injury but wore down Fognini after that hard-fought service break in the seventh game of the second set.

"I was able to fight, to change a little bit the dynamic of the match," Nadal said.

"The players who are in the top position of the rankings, it's because they are able to win when things are not going well."

Fognini started fluently as he broke and led 3-0. He was soon leading 5-1 but failed to serve out and had to break Nadal again with a superb cross-court return to clinch the set.

Fognini again ran up a 3-0 lead in the second and



Serena Williams of U.S. watches her shot as she plays against Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark during the quarterfinal match of the China Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Stadium in Beijing, China Friday, Oct. 4, 2013.

Associated Press

was serving with a lead of 4-2 before Nadal seized control.

It was the third straight vic-

tory over Fognini for Nadal, who next plays fourth-seeded Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic. □



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ALDS

Continued Previous page

"And we saw that right away."

Needing a 163rd game to earn a wild-card berth, the Rays won three win-or-go-home games in three different cities to reach this series. Now they need a victory in Game 2 on Saturday to tie the best-of-five series before it shifts to St. Petersburg, Fla., for Games 3 and 4.

"We've been playing very well. We've not been making any mistakes. We made a bunch tonight," Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon said. "But I've also learned one other thing regarding baseball: 24 hours can make a huge difference. That's just one game, baby. That's just one. We'll be back tomorrow, I promise you. We'll be ready to play. We will not be affected mentally by tonight's game."

Jon Lester allowed three hits in 7 2-3 innings for the AL East champions, giving up solo homers to Sean Rodriguez and Ben Zobrist to spot the Rays a 2-0 lead through the top of the fourth. Tampa Bay starter Matt Moore had still not given up a hit.

But Dustin Pedroia led off the bottom half with a single up the middle, and then David Ortiz hit a high fly ball that center fielder Desmond Jennings and right fielder Wil Myers converged on. The Rays rookie raised his right hand to call off Jennings but let it fall behind him and bounce off the warning track and into the bullpen for a double. "I was under the ball and I saw Des out of the corner of my eye and backed off," Myers said. "I messed it up, and it won't happen again. ... That play kind of gave them a spark,

and a good team takes advantage of it."

With a derisive cheer of "Myers" echoing through the ballpark, Mike Napoli popped up to second base for the first out before Gomes hit a fly ball that scraped the left-field wall on the way down. Pedroia held to tag up, then scored easily with Ortiz coming in just a few steps behind him to make it 2-2.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia struck out before Stephen Drew hit a slow hopper to first that James Loney fielded and flicked to Moore. But the pitcher's foot came down a split second after Drew's; with Moore facing the wrong way, Gomes never slowed down as he rounded third and scored without a throw.

Will Middlebrooks followed with a line drive to left that took a bad hop off the Monster where the AL East standings are posted, and it got past Rodriguez on the rebound. That allowed Drew to score and make it 4-2, while Middlebrooks went into second with a double. Jacoby Ellsbury reached on a passed ball on strike three - which would have been the third out of the inning - and Middlebrooks moved to third, where he scored on Shane Victorino's single to make it 5-2. "That Myers play obviously gave us some momentum," Victorino said. "All those kind of things and it became a snowball effect. Plays like that happen. You've got to thrive and you've got to get as many runs as you can when a mistake like that is made."

The Red Sox added three more runs to chase Moore in the fifth inning, when they sent nine batters to the plate - the first time in franchise history they have batted around in consecutive innings in a postseason

game. In all, Moore was charged with eight runs - seven earned - on eight hits, two walks a hit batter and a wild pitch, striking out four in 4 1-3 innings. □

Boston Red Sox's Mike Napoli (12) beats the tag by Tampa Bay Rays second baseman Ben Zobrist, left, for a double in the fifth inning in Game 1 of baseball's American League division series, Friday, Oct. 4, 2013, in Boston. Second base umpire Dana Demuth, rear, prepares to make the call.

Associated Press



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Rodriguez sues MLB and Selig, citing 'witch hunt'

LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Rodriguez has accused Major League Baseball and commissioner Bud Selig in a lawsuit made public on Friday of pursuing him in a "witch hunt" designed to smear his character and cost him tens of millions of dollars.

The lawsuit was filed on Thursday in New York State Supreme Court by lawyers for the New York Yankees third baseman. It seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages for what it alleges was a relentless campaign by the league and Selig to "destroy the reputation and career of Alex Rodriguez." The suit claims Selig and MLB tried to smear Rodriguez's reputation to "gloss over" Selig's past inaction and tacit approval of the use of performance-enhancing substances in the league, which the lawsuit



In this April 13, 2013, file photo, New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez sits in the dugout during a baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press

said had turned the "Golden Age of Baseball" into the "Golden Age of Steroids." The lawsuit said Selig hoped to redeem himself and secure his legacy as the "savior" of America's pastime.

"Taking down Mr. Rodriguez would vividly demon-

strate that Commissioner Selig had learned from the errors of his previous explicit or tacit tolerance of steroid use," the lawsuit said.

MLB spokesman Matthew Monte said the league had no comment. A message left at Selig's office was not immediately returned,

though his office said the league could comment on his behalf as well.

The lawsuit was filed as Rodriguez appeals a 211-game suspension for violating MLB's drug agreement and labor contract. The suspension stemmed from MLB's investigation of the Biogenesis of America anti-aging clinic.

The suit accuses the league and Selig of planting negative stories about Rodriguez in the news and trying to muddy his name while protecting a witness under investigation for allegedly providing steroids to minors. "Such are the lengths that Commissioner Selig and MLB have stooped to in their witch hunt against Mr. Rodriguez — paying and protecting someone under investigation for providing steroids to minors," the lawsuit said.

The court papers noted that Rodriguez's suspension was four times the length

of the other 13 players suspended in connection with the Biogenesis probe and the longest non-lifetime ban in MLB history. They said the suspension was also 161 games longer than the 50-game suspension contemplated by the Joint Drug Agreement in the players' contract.

The lawsuit said the suspension will cost Rodriguez tens of millions of dollars in salary and could prevent him from meeting certain performance goals in his contract that are worth millions of dollars.

It also said two potential sponsors — Nike Inc. and Toyota Motor Corp. — have terminated negotiations with Rodriguez for potential sponsorship contracts and Rodriguez's voice work as a hero for an animated movie, "Henry & Me," has been cut. The movie chronicles the Yankees' history and features baseball stars, past and present. □

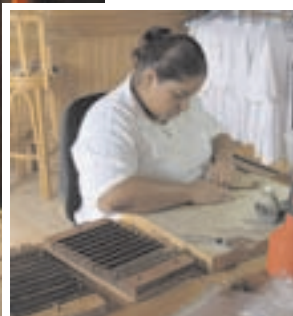
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. With any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. Aruhiba gift boxes are now available at Dufry Shop at the Airport.



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Crosby, Fleury lead Penguins over Devils 3-0

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 28 shots for his 250th NHL victory and franchise-record 24th shutout, and Sidney Crosby scored in Pittsburgh's two-goal first period to lead the Penguins to a 3-0 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Thursday night in the season opener for both teams.

Chuck Kobasew and Craig Adams added goals for the Penguins, who took control early.

Kobasew and Crosby scored less than four minutes apart in the first, and Adams made it 3-0 midway through the third to celebrate his 800th career game in style.

Cory Schneider made 18 saves for the Devils. Schneider's start marked the first time in 19 years Martin Brodeur didn't play in the season opener for New Jersey. Brodeur is expected to start Friday at home against the New York Islanders.

Fleury was stellar from the opening faceoff and even stopped a penalty shot by Adam Henrique late in the third period to preserve the shutout.

BRUINS 3, LIGHTNING 1
BOSTON (AP) — Chris Kelly scored on a penalty shot, and Patrice Bergeron also had a short-handed goal as Boston opened defense of its Eastern Conference championship with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Kelly was hooked from behind about eight minutes in while Boston was killing off a penalty, and he converted the one-on-one with goalie Anders Lindback.

Boston also killed a 5-on-3 power play in the first period and another in the third.

Tuukka Rask made 32 saves for Boston, which reached the Stanley Cup finals last season for the second time in three years.

Lindback stopped 22 shots for the Lightning.

CAPITALS 5, FLAMES 4, SO
WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin had two goals and an assist and then scored in the shootout for Washington, which rallied from an early three-goal deficit to beat Calgary in the Flames' season opener.

Washington's Michal Neuvirth, who replaced an ineffective Braden Holtby, made 27 saves and stopped Sven Baertschi and Jiri Hudler in the shootout.

Marcus Johansson assisted on all three second-period goals for the Capitals, who earned their first win after dropping the opener to defending Stanley Cup champion Chicago on Tuesday.

Connor Carrick and Nicklas Backstrom also scored for Washington.

David Jones, Lee Stempniak, Hudler and Lance Bouma had goals for Calgary. Karri Ramo made 35 saves.

KINGS 3, WILD 2, SO
ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP) — Anze Kopitar and Jeff Carter scored shootout goals for Los Angeles, which rallied to beat Minnesota in the season opener for both teams.

Carter and Drew Doughty scored regulation goals for Los Angeles, which had just 18 shots. Jonathan Quick made 29 saves for the Kings, including stops against Zach Parise and Mikko Koivu in the shootout.

Matt Cooke and Jonas Brodin scored in regulation

for Minnesota, which had never lost a home opener in its first 12 seasons (11-0-1).

With the Kings trailing 2-1, Carter scored on a rebound of a shot by Matt Frattin at 13:14 of the third period to tie it.

BLUES 4, PREDATORS 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — David Backes had a goal and assist in the first period to lead St. Louis over Nashville.

PANTHERS 4, STARS 2

DALLAS (AP) — Marcel Goc scored two third-period goals, and Florida spoiled Lindy Ruff's debut as Dallas coach with a season-opening road victory.

The Panthers erased a 2-1 deficit with goals about 4½ minutes apart. Goc's goal followed the tying tally by 18-year-old Aleksander Barkov, the No. 2 pick in this year's draft.



Florida Panthers center Marcel Goc (57) skates up ice as Erik Gudbranson, top right, checks Dallas Stars center Vernon Fiddler (38) into the boards during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Thursday, Oct. 3, 2013, in Dallas.

Associated Press

The Blues scored three times in the first 9:45 to jump in front 3-0 and chase goalie Pekka Rinne.

Jaroslav Halak made 28 saves for the Blues and improved to 9-3-3 against the Predators.

Vladimir Sobotka, T.J. Oshie and Alex Steen also scored for St. Louis, which was 2 of 4 on the power play. The Blues have won four of their past five home openers.

Goc's second goal was an empty-netter. Tim Thomas made 24 saves for Florida. Dallas' Ryan Garbutt and Florida's Dmitry Kulikov were ejected in the first period when they started fighting a few moments after another fight on the ice. Scott Gomez, a 14-year veteran in his first season with the Panthers, opened the scoring with a backhand shot from the crease after a pass from behind

the net by Scottie Upshall.

COYOTES 4, RANGERS 1

GLENDALE, Arizona (AP) — Radim Vrbata scored three goals and Mike Smith stopped 23 shots as Phoenix opened its first season with an owner in four years by routing the New York Rangers.

With NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and the club's new owners in attendance, the Coyotes turned a tight game into a one-sided contest behind Vrbata's second straight hat trick — dating to last season — and fifth of his career.

Kyle Chipchura also scored, Martin Hanzal had two assists, and Smith made some tough saves on a pair of early penalty kills, including one from his stomach on a shot by Benoit Pouliot.

Marc Staal scored a power-play goal for the short-handed Rangers in their first game under new coach Alain Vigneault. Henrik Lundqvist stopped 28 shots for New York.

SHARKS 4, CANUCKS 1

SAN JOSE, California (AP) — Justin Braun scored his first goal in more than 19 months to break a tie late in the second period and San Jose went on to beat Vancouver in the season opener for both teams.

Brent Burns, Patrick Marleau and Tommy Wingels also scored for the Sharks, who have won eight straight against the Canucks including a sweep in the first round of the playoffs last season. Antti Niemi made 21 saves.

Jason Garrison scored a power-play goal and Roberto Luongo made 31 saves for the Canucks, who lost in the debut of new coach John Tortorella. □

NFL Preview

Big matchups in the NFC North

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

The Pack is back — on the field, that is, after a bye. And the first chore is a big one: Green Bay needs to beat the Detroit Lions at Lambeau Field or fall far behind in their NFL division. Not that Chicago, the other contender in the NFC North through the first month of the season, has an easy challenge on Sunday, either. The Bears host undefeated New Orleans. Not much has gone the way the Packers projected early in the schedule, and their only victory is against struggling Washington. The fourth-week bye helped them heal up, and now they feel it's time to make a statement in the division before it's too late. Besides, their 21-game, regular-season home winning streak against Detroit is the longest in NFL history. "We're aware that a good team is coming in here, but I believe if we play well, we'll have a good

chance," defensive tackle B.J. Raji said.

The Lions' offense has nice balance with the emergence of Reggie Bush as a force. Bush comes off a 173-yard game, including a 37-yard touchdown run against the Bears, and has been a perfect complement for star receiver Calvin Johnson.

"Eventually teams are going to have to loosen up on Calvin or Reggie is going to continue to have big days like that," Lions coach Jim Schwartz said. "That's a good position to be in offensively."

Chicago comes off a sloppy loss at Detroit, and faces the prolific New Orleans offense. Even with the Saints on a short week after Monday's romp over Miami, the game offers little comfort for the Bears.

"Their ability to run the ball, their ability to pass the ball," Bears safety Chris Conte said, listing what impresses him about the Saints. "They have (run-



Detroit Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson (81), defended by Chicago Bears cornerback Charles Tillman (33), catches a two-yard touchdown from quarterback Matthew Stafford during the second quarter of an NFL football game at Ford Field in Detroit, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013.

Associated Press

ning back Darren) Sproles, who is a big threat, and they also have Jimmy Graham; guys on the outside, Marques Colston — tons of guys who can just push the field, fast guys. And their ability — Drew Brees — to move safeties and find guys deep. "They're doing a great job."

Other than Tom Brady, the one player the Patriots probably couldn't afford to have go down is nose

tackle Vince Wilfork. He did against Atlanta last weekend with a torn Achilles tendon, so unbeaten New England will be without the heart of its improved defense at Cincinnati.

Expect the Bengals to respond with a heavy dose of former Patriot BenJarvus Green-Ellis and rookie Giovani Bernard running the ball.

Brady has never lost to the Bengals and the Patriots have won six straight regu-

lar-season road games.

The round began on Thursday with quarterback Brandon Weeden replacing injured starter Brian Hoyer and rallying the Cleveland Browns to a 37-24 win over the Buffalo Bills, who also lost starting rookie quarterback EJ Manuel with a knee injury.

The Browns won their third straight game and temporarily moved into sole possession of first place in the AFC North. □



International teammates Graham DeLaet, left, of Canada, and Jason Day, of Australia, talk about their next shot on the 15th hole during a four-some match against the United States' Phil Mickelson and Keegan Bradley at the Presidents Cup golf tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club Friday, Oct. 4, 2013, in Dublin, Ohio. The U.S. pair won 4 and 2.

Associated Press

U.S. keeps lead as rain interrupts Presidents Cup

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Another rain delay cut short some exceptional golf Friday in the Presidents Cup.

Phil Mickelson and Keegan Bradley shot 30 on the front nine at Muirfield Village, an astounding performance in foursomes. Only some sloppy play allowed the match to go 15 holes in a 4-and-3 win over Jason Day and Graham DeLaet.

"We played some of our best golf today," Mickelson said. "It just felt terrific."

Right behind them, Brendon de Jonge began to emerge as a star of the International team. He and Ernie Els never trailed in a 4-and-3 win over Hunter Mahan and Bill Hass, going 8 under when the match ended at the 15th.

The Americans had a 4½-3½ lead, though four matches were still in progress when darkness descended on Muirfield Village.

For the second straight day, storms interrupted play and left a bleak outlook for finishing Sunday. Rain led to a delay of nearly three hours. The other four matches — the Americans were up in two, the International team led the other two — were to resume Saturday morning.

Tiger Woods and Matt Kuchar were 6 under through eight holes and still only had a 1-up lead over Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel.

Oosthuizen missed a short par putt on the ninth to lose another hole, and the former British Open champion made an even greater

blunder on the par-3 12th. After Woods went long of the green, Oosthuizen's 7-iron leaked to the right and hopped into the water. The Americans won with a bogey and were 3 up with six holes to play when they stopped.

Steve Stricker and 20-year-old Jordan Spieth finally seized control of their match when Spieth made a 15-foot birdie putt on the par-3 eighth and another key birdie on the 12th. They were 3 up with four holes remaining.

What looked to be the decisive match of the foursomes session was Angel Cabrera and Marc Leishman, who overcame an early deficit and were 1 up with five holes remaining against Webb Simpson and Brandt Snedeker.

The International team had control of the other match, with Hideki Matsuyama and Adam Scott 4 up with seven holes remaining against Zach Johnson and Jason Dufner.

Saturday is the busiest day for the Presidents Cup, with five fourballs matches early and five foursomes matches late. It concludes with 12 singles matches Sunday, though the weather forecast is not any better, especially for Sunday.

One thing was becoming clear through the clouds — the course Jack Nicklaus built has been groomed for birdies.

Nicklaus himself couldn't believe the scores he saw from both sides.

"They say this golf course is tough," he said, though he knows better. □

NFL Roundup

Weeden rallies Browns past Bills, 37-24

TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP)—Brandon Weeden came off the bench after Brian Hoyer injured his knee and rallied the Browns to a 37-24 victory over the Buffalo Bills, who also lost starting rookie quarterback EJ Manuel with a knee injury.

After spraining his right thumb in Week 2, Weeden watched as Hoyer, a lifelong Browns fan who began the season as Cleveland's No. 3 quarterback, led the team to two straight wins. Weeden got healthy enough to play but found himself demoted to a backup role.

He could have sulked or complained. Instead, he fought back.

"Whether I was the starter, eyes are still on you to see how you respond, to see how you react," he said after Thursday's win. "I was upbeat the entire time and never let it bother me. Inside, it just kind of lit a fire."

Weeden threw a 37-yard touchdown pass to Josh Gordon in the third quarter as the Browns (3-2) won their third straight and temporarily moved into sole possession of first place in the AFC North. It's the Browns best record after five games since they were 3-2 in 2001.

"We don't care about history," Gordon said. "This is a new year and this is a new team."

Safety T.J. Ward intercepted rookie Jeff Tuel's pass and returned it 44 yards for a TD with 1:44 left to end any comeback hopes for the Bills (2-3). Travis Benjamin had an electrifying 79-yard TD punt return in the first half for Cleveland.

Hoyer sustained a potentially serious right knee injury on a scramble in the first quarter, and Manuel was forced

out after taking a helmet to his right knee on a run in the third. Neither returned and their injuries could impact both teams' seasons.

Hoyer was attempting to become the first quarterback in team history to win his first three starts — now he may not get back on the field this season.

"We definitely don't want to see a teammate go down like that, especially a guy like Hoyer," Gordon said. "He's a great guy and I hope he comes back healthy."

C.J. Spiller had a 54-yard TD run and Fred Jackson had a pair of 1-yard TD runs for the Bills, who could do nothing on offense once Manuel left.

Manuel got hurt at the end of a 14-yard run when he was hammered near the sideline by Browns safety Tashaun Gipson. Manuel walked off the field attempted to get his knee loose on the sideline by jogging and riding a stationary bike. But after having his knee examined, he jogged to the locker room with two trainers.

Billy Cundiff kicked field goals of 24 and 44 yards in the fourth quarter for the Browns, who overcame a 10-0 deficit and were down 24-17 less than two minutes into the second quarter.

Cundiff's second kick with 2:21 left put the Browns ahead 30-24, and Cleveland turned it over to their third-ranked overall defense.

With Buffalo leading 24-17, Weeden found Gordon down the left sideline and the wide receiver made a juggling catch. Weeden started slowly but finished 13 of 24 for 197 yards.

"He did a great job," tight end Jordan Cameron said. "At first he was a little rusty. I think he shook that off and really got us going." □



Cleveland Browns wide receiver Josh Gordon (12) grabs a 37-yard touchdown pass against Buffalo Bills free safety Aaron Williams in the third quarter of an NFL football game Thursday, Oct. 3, 2013, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

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Stocks rise on hope that DC will end its bickering

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street thinks Washington's gridlock could be easing. Stocks posted modest gains Friday, driven by budding optimism among traders that Washington's bickering politicians can reach an agreement on the budget and on increasing the government's borrowing limit soon.

"Call it 'modest optimism,'" said Frank Davis, director of sales and trading at LEK Securities.

The stock market rose for just the third time in 12 days. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 76.10 points, or 0.5 percent, at 15,072.58. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 11.84 points, or 0.7 percent, at 1,690.50 and the Nasdaq composite index gained 33.41 points, or 0.9 percent, at 3,807.75.

Traders aren't expecting a miracle. The rhetoric between Democrats and Republicans remains as hot as ever. But the pressure to end the shutdown and raise the debt ceiling is climbing quickly.

"The thought is that the Republicans and Democrats will soon work this out before Oct. 17," Davis said, referring to the date the Treasury Department said the government's borrowing authority would be exhausted.

On Friday, House Speaker John Boehner reemphasized that he won't let the U.S. government default on its debts. There were also reports that Boehner was looking to bring House Republicans together to pass some sort of budget compromise that would include raising the debt ceiling.

Davis noted that it's a positive sign that investors are buying stocks heading into a weekend, especially with how volatile the political climate in Washington has been.

Despite Friday's gains, the trend for the last three weeks in the stock market has been lower. The Dow is down nearly 4 percent since hitting an all-time

high on Sept. 18.

While remote, the possibility of the U.S. failing to pay its bills or creditors remains a deep concern to investors. "Credit markets

crisis and recession that could echo the events of 2008 or worse," the Treasury Department said in a report Thursday.

Investors went through

cent in the weeks that followed.

Because of that precedent, the political noise out of Washington has come to dominate nearly all con-

has forced the Labor Department to postpone the release of September's data for at least the foreseeable future.

And few traders are talking about third quarter corporate earnings reports either, which start next week. "The market is going to remain completely occupied by Washington until this is resolved," said Bob Doll, chief equity strategist and portfolio manager at Nuveen Asset Management, which oversees \$126 billion. Despite these concerns, Doll and other investors believe the possibility that the U.S. government would willingly default on its debt is remote.

"It's hard to really say how this is going to end, but I think it's unthinkable that it will end with a default of the U.S. government," said Steve Auth, chief investment officer at Federated Investors.

Not all parts of the market were optimistic Friday. Yields for the one-month T-bill that mature around the time the U.S. government is expected to hit its borrowing limit have risen to their highest level in a year. □



CEO Margaret Kelly, center, of Re/Max Holdings Inc., with Chairman and co-founder Dave Liniger, second from right, and his wife and company co-founder Gail Liniger, right, celebrate as the Denver-based real estate broker's IPO shares begin trading, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. (AP Photo/NYSE, Dario Cantatore)

could freeze, the value of the dollar could plummet, U.S. interest rates could skyrocket, the negative spillovers could reverberate around the world, and there might be a financial

a similar case of political brinkmanship in August 2011, which ultimately led to Standard & Poor's downgrading the United States' credit rating. The S&P 500 fell roughly 12 per-

cent in the weeks that followed. Under normal circumstances, traders would have the government's monthly jobs report to parse through on the first Friday of the month. But the shutdown

Evan Williams may be worth \$1B after IPO

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The personal fortune of Twitter co-founder Evan Williams probably will take up 10 characters once the online communications company goes public.

Williams, who was Twitter's CEO for two years until Dick Costolo took over in 2010, owns a 12 percent stake that makes him the company's largest shareholder. If Twitter turns out to be worth at least \$17.60 per share, the initial public offering will make Williams a billionaire at 41 years old.

Williams, a Nebraska native who now lives in San Francisco, is likely to join the billion-dollar club because an outside appraisal of Twitter completed in August valued the company at \$20.62 per share, according to IPO documents unsealed Thursday. At that

price, Williams' 56.9 million shares would be worth nearly \$1.2 billion.

San Francisco-based Twitter Inc. hopes to raise \$1

he launched in 2005 after leaving a job at Google Inc. He had gone to work for Google after selling his first hit product, Blogger, to

run by Williams.

Although Williams is no longer Twitter's chief executive, he remains on the company's board of directors. Another board member, Peter Fenton, and his venture capital firm, Benchmark Capital, own a 6.7 percent stake in the company.

Next in line with a 4.9 percent stake is Jack Dorsey, who came up for the idea for Twitter with Noah Glass and Biz Stone. The stakes of Glass and Stone aren't listed in the IPO documents, meaning they don't own enough stock to trigger legal disclosures.

Glass came up with the original name "Twtr" in a reference to chirping birds. Despite his early involvement in Twitter, Glass was never promoted as one of the company's founders along with Dorsey, Stone and Williams. □



A smartphone display shows the Twitter logo in Berlin, Germany. (AP Photo/Soeren Stache)

billion an offer that's expected to be completed by late November.

Williams owns such a large stake because Twitter was hatched within another startup called Odeo that

Google for an undisclosed amount in 2003.

Odeo, which specialized in podcasting, never caught on and Twitter was eventually spun into Obvious Corp., another company

Invest mix-up? You say Twitter, I say Tweeter

JOSEPH PISANI
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A bankrupt electronics retailer appears to have gotten caught up in the investor fervor for Twitter.

Shares of Tweeter Home Entertainment Group Inc. rose as high as 15 cents Friday. That's up 1,400 percent from Thursday's closing price of 1 cent. And trading volume skyrocketed to 14.4 million shares. Over the past year, the daily average was about 29,000, according to FactSet.

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Wall Street's industry regulator, said the shares were halted Friday afternoon because of a misunderstanding related to the "possible initial public offering of an unrelated security."

What could have gotten investors so confused?

Tweeter trades over the counter, under the "TWTRQ" symbol.

Twitter on Thursday offered investors details about its highly anticipated IPO and proposed the stock symbol "TWTR."

But San Francisco-based Twitter's stock won't be available for trading until the company actually goes public. That could be before Thanksgiving Day in late November.

Twitter has about 218 million, far fewer than Facebook, which has more than 1 billion. But celebrities, from Oprah Winfrey to Britney Spears to President Barack Obama, are on it. And many TV networks and news organizations encourage people to follow their Twitter pages in order to start a conversation with viewers and promote their shows.

Twitter said that it expects to raise about \$1 billion in its IPO.

And Tweeter? The chain was founded in 1972 and had been based in Canton, Massachusetts. It sold TVs, audio equipment and other electronics, but the stores disappeared years ago. □

Samsung soars; HTC reports first quarterly loss

ERIC PFANNER

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TOKYO - The diverging fortunes of two of the leading smartphone providers in Asia were demonstrated Friday when Samsung Electronics of South Korea predicted better-than-expected quarterly earnings while HTC of Taiwan reported its first loss. Samsung, which is benefiting from its status as a leading provider of semiconductors as well as smartphones, said it expected to post operating profit of 9.9 trillion won to 10.3 trillion won, or about \$9.2 billion to \$9.6 billion, in the third quarter, up from 8.06 trillion won a year earlier. Sales are expected to rise to a range of 58 trillion to 60 trillion won, from 52.2 trillion won a year earlier.

The outlook contrasts strikingly with a report from HTC, which posted its first-ever quarterly loss Friday. The company posted a net loss of 2.97 billion Taiwan dollars, or about \$101 million, in the third quarter, after net income of 3.9 billion Taiwan dollars a year earlier. Samsung did not provide an explanation of the drivers of its growth, but analysts said the company was probably benefiting from a recent recovery in the price of memory chips after a fire at a factory owned by a Samsung rival, SK Hynix, in Wuxi, China. Samsung is not only the biggest maker of smartphones, but it is also the leading maker of memory chips. It sells chips to other companies, like Apple, in addition to supplying them to its own smartphone production lines.

"Samsung's diversity of profit streams plus strength and scale in all tiers of smartphones helps them to continue to grow profits," Mark Newman, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein, wrote in a note to clients. While the torrid pace of sales of high-end smartphones like Samsung's Galaxy S4 has eased somewhat, the company sells a range of lower-priced devices, too. This positions it to benefit from expectations of strong growth in low-priced and midrange

smartphones, analysts say. Samsung's numbers were preliminary; final results are expected to be reported at the end of the month.

Over the past few years, the performance of Samsung has been roughly inverse to that of HTC, whose problems continue to deepen. Although HTC had previously forecast a quarterly loss, the number was even bigger than analysts had expected. The company's flagship smartphone, the HTC One, has failed to catch on with high-end users, who have favored devices from Samsung and Apple.

HTC has focused on premium models, even though much of the growth in the smartphone business is coming from the lower end of the market, where Chinese companies like Lenovo, ZTE and Huawei are experiencing rapid growth. HTC has also suffered from internal discord, with a series of executives quitting the company in recent months. One of the company's top design executives, Thomas Chien, was arrested in August in connection with a police investigation of the alleged theft of trade secrets from HTC.

Cher Wang, HTC's chairwoman, said in a recent interview that Chien, who could not be reached for comment, was trying to recruit HTC employees for a new company he was planning to form.

She insisted that the executive departures would have no effect on the company's operations, saying that all of the HTC material that the employees were accused of taking had been recovered.

"In terms of technology, it's not going to affect us," Wang said. "It will not have any detrimental effect on us." □



A screen shows a Samsung Electronics' Galaxy Note 3 in a showroom at Samsung Electronics Co. headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Oct. 4, 2013. Operating profit at Samsung Electronics hit another record high in the July-September quarter, likely driven by robust sales of its cheaper mid-range smartphones in developing countries. The maker of Galaxy smartphones said Friday that its third-quarter operating income rose 25 percent over a year earlier to 10.1 trillion won (\$9.4 billion).
(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

Oil rises toward \$104 on TS Karen

PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press

The price of crude rose to near \$104 a barrel Friday as offshore oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico braced for Tropical Storm Karen. Investors were also keeping a close watch on developments in Washington D.C., as the partial shutdown of the U.S. government entered a fourth day.

U.S. benchmark oil for November delivery rose 53 cents to close at \$103.84 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. For the week oil rose 97 cents, snapping a three-week losing streak

that knocked \$7.66, or 7 percent, off the price of a barrel.

Several oil companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico, including Exxon, said they were taking precautionary measures, including the evacuation of non-essential personnel from offshore installations in the path of the tropical storm that could turn into a weak hurricane over the weekend.

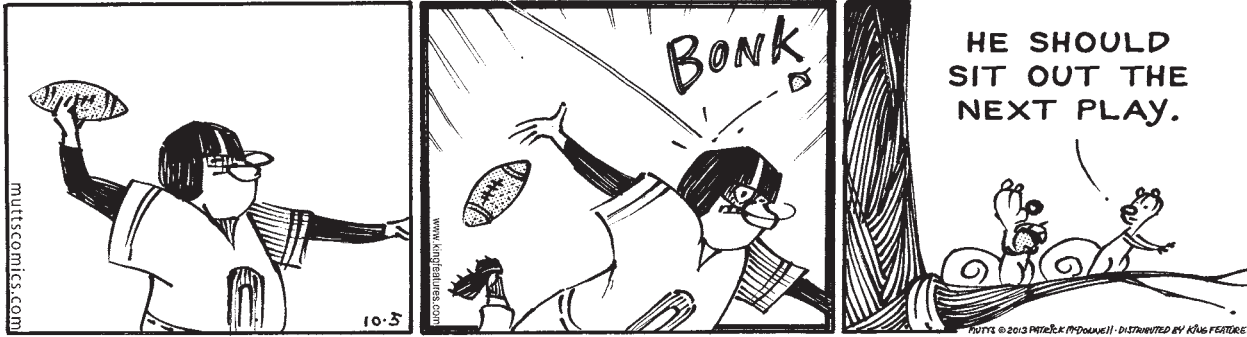
The potential disruption comes amid the budget impasse in the U.S. Some 800,000 federal workers and scores of agencies

were idled this week after a sharply divided U.S. Congress failed to agree on short-term funding for the government to pay its bills beyond Monday, when the fiscal year ended.

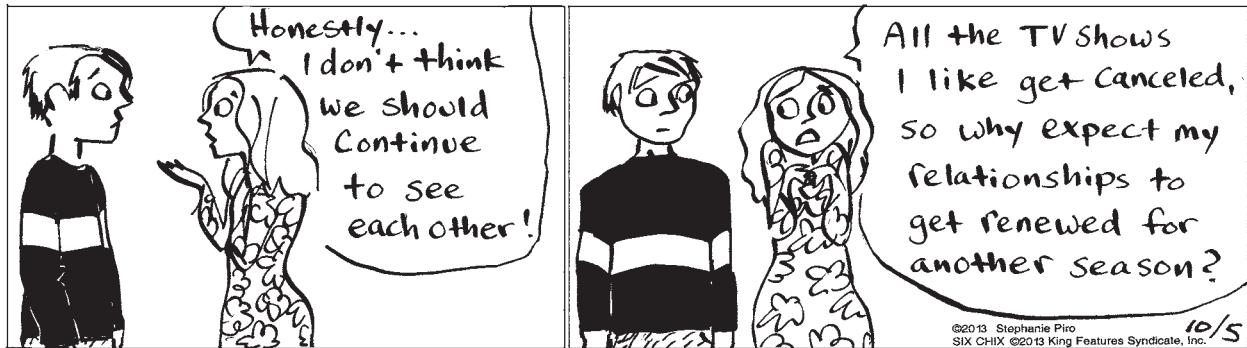
A prolonged halt to government activities would reduce demand for energy and result in lower prices of fuels such as gasoline. That would be a boon for U.S. drivers but also signal a weak economy.

Brent, the benchmark for international crudes, gained 46 cents to \$109.46 on the ICE Futures exchange in London. □

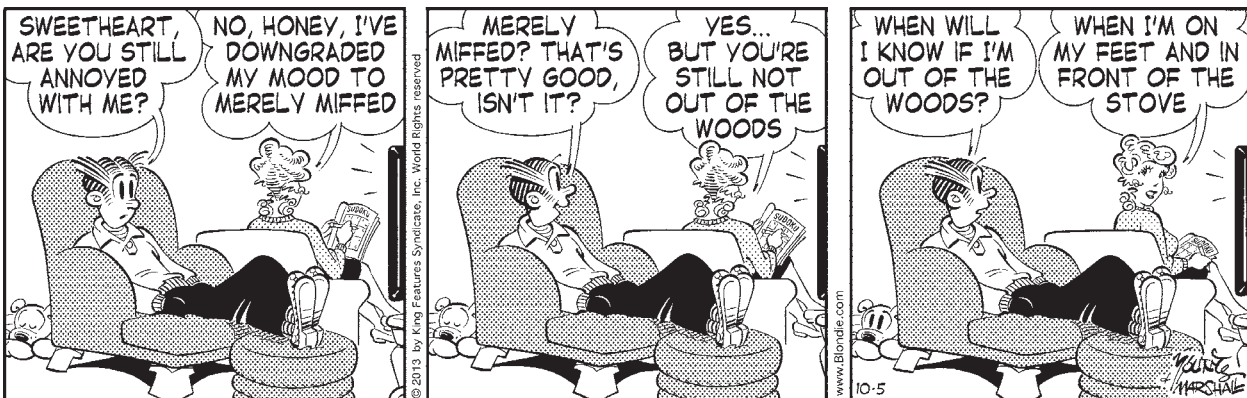
Mutts



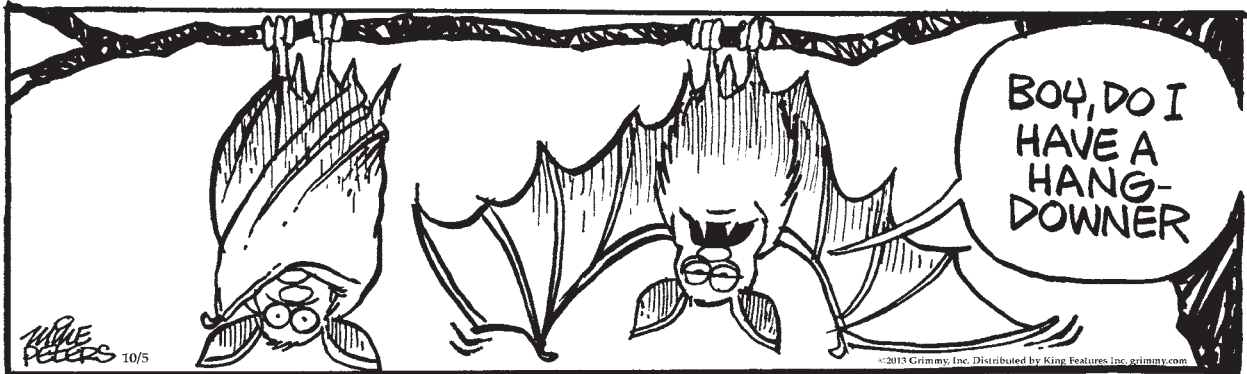
6 Chix



Blondie



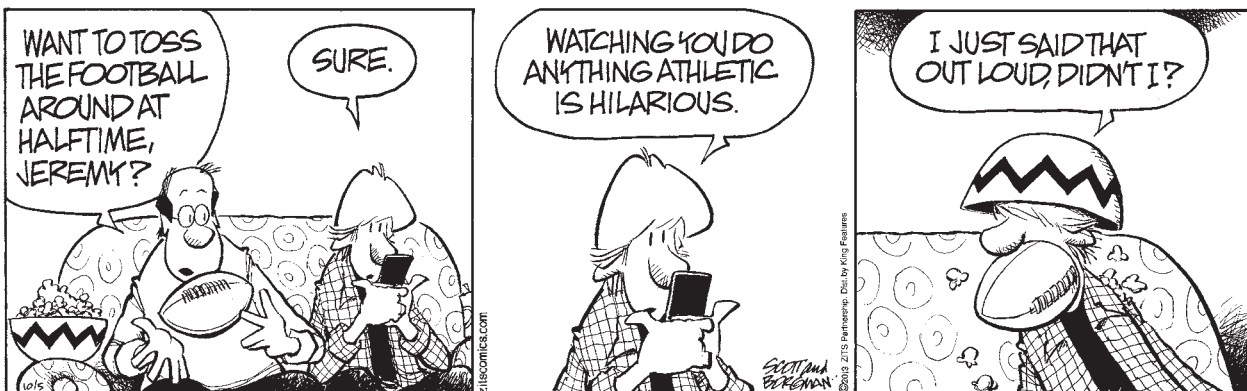
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		1					9	
			9	4				7
2		9	6	3				
	3	4						
	9	2				1	6	
						9	8	
				2	3	7		6
1			5	8				
	2					3		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

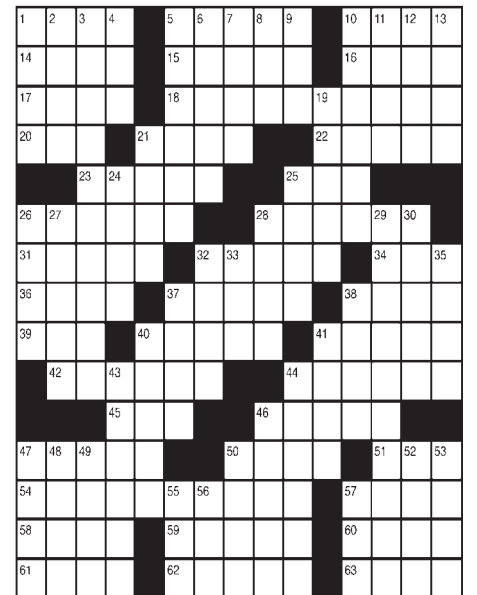
4	6	7	2	9	1	3	5	8
2	8	1	3	7	5	6	9	4
3	5	9	8	6	4	1	7	2
6	4	3	5	1	8	9	2	7
8	1	2	9	3	7	4	6	5
7	9	5	6	4	2	8	3	1
1	2	6	4	5	3	7	8	9
9	7	8	1	2	6	5	4	3
5	3	4	7	8	9	2	1	6

ACROSS

- PC repairman
- Actor Willem
- Italy's capital
- Zone
- Actress Procter
- On an ___ keel; calm & stable
- Hideous
- Idiot
- Foot digit
- Think deeply
- Makes, as a salary
- Willis or Lee
- Donkey
- Lombard or King
- Stringed instrument
- Fill with joy
- Nourishes
- Tree secretion
- Short letter
- Tushes
- ___-fry; wok dish
- Definite article
- Slogan
- Glow
- Counsel
- Bumbling
- Pen contents
- Good dishes
- Zing
- Mr. Flintstone
- Tit for ___
- Ghost
- Staple in an Asian diet
- Hockey score
- Not at all wordy
- "There's no place like ___"
- Landers and Jillian
- Impudent
- Small bills

DOWN

- Pulled tight, as a rope
- As a result
- Threw a party for an occasion
- Barn dinner
- Infer; conclude
- Make laugh
- Young person
- Went down smoothly
- Pulse, blood pressure, etc.
- Joe Biden's predecessor
- In a bad mood
- Very excited
- Come ___; find
- Reach across
- Evergreens
- Highest point
- Golf pegs
- "If ___ all the same to you..."
- Soothing drink
- Greek letter



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/5/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

PUT	ARDOR	SICK
ASAP	LEAVE	YORE
SELL	GATES	STAG
DEODORANT	TABS	
WORM	APE	
STRIVE	ATTEMPTS	
CRANE	SNEER	RIM
RUNG	PAGED	KITE
ACT	PLIES	MOCHA
MESSHALL	LOOKER	
TIC	TEAK	
LIMO	ASSISTING	
ADAM	ROANS	EYED
CLIP	DIRGE	REAR
KENS	SLIER	TRY

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10/5/13

Novels lovingly pillory black church and hit a nerve

Samuel G. Freedman
© 2013 New York Times
DECATUR, Ga. - Kimberla Lawson Roby stood near the pulpit of a Baptist church in this Atlanta suburb one Saturday in late August, giving her testimony. She spoke of infidelities, mistresses, blackmail, out-of-wedlock children and

Her portrayal of a morally culpable black minister, who she wryly told her Decatur audience is "a faithful husband to his third wife," is one of the most recent and most popular examples of African-Americans' complicated, even contradictory attitude toward their religious leaders.



Kimberla Lawson Roby, author of a series of novels about a morally challenged black minister, in her the room at her home where she writes, in Belvidere, Ill., Oct. 2, 2013. Kimberla Lawson Roby, author of a series of novels about a morally challenged black minister, in her writing room at home in Belvidere, Ill., Oct. 2, 2013. Roby's series, now numbering 10 books, has sold upward of one million copies, and several titles have made best-seller lists.

(Nathan Weber/The New York Times)

extravagant spending. She did so as neither minister nor worshipper nor congregant, but rather as an author telling scores of rapt fans about her nominally fictional characters. One of those listeners asked Roby, a novelist, about her research process. "I didn't have to do any research," she replied. "I've been in church all my life." With that, a knowing round of laughter swelled up from the pews, the closest thing the annual Decatur AJC Book Festival can produce to an "amen." Such moments of affirmation and shared experience have typified Roby's literary life for the past 13 years, since she began writing a series of novels built around an African-American pastor, the Rev. Curtis Black. The series, now numbering 10 books, has sold well upward of 1 million copies, and several titles have made best-seller lists. Besides being a commercial phenomenon, Roby's books represent a theological and cultural one.

"I didn't think pastors have to be perfect," Roby, 48, said in an interview after her book-fair appearance. "They're human beings. But if you say you were called by God, you need to be held to a higher standard." In their own ways, black artists and entertainers have done exactly that to the archetypal character of the black minister. While black pastors like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have been among the greatest heroes in African-American history, their fictive brethren have more often received criticism or ridicule. The most indelible of these portrayals include the hypocritical storefront preacher in James Baldwin's novel "Go Tell It on the Mountain," the comedian Flip Wilson's flagrantly materialistic Rev. Leroy of the Church of What's Happening Now and the con man masquerading as a churchman in Sidney Poitier's film "Buck and the Preacher." Most recently, reality TV has turned its prurient lens to the world of the black church in series like

"The Sheards," "The Sisterhood" and "The Preachers of LA." Amid such company, Roby personifies what might be called a loving critic of the church. As much as her novels traffic in Black's sins - living large and cheating on two wives while presenting himself as the symbol of moral authority - they also depict in knowledgeable and even tender ways black Christianity's deep sense of community and a fabric of meaningful ritual. It is precisely because Black serves so valuable a tradition that his failings hit with such impact. The daughter of two factory workers in Rockford, Ill., Roby grew up immersed in church. She remains a member of a Baptist church in the area and extols its minister as "a real teaching pastor with integrity." □

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Timeshare for sale Aruba Beach Club
Week 40, Oct. 5 to 12, Superior room 128 Ground floor steps to pool and Ocean \$3300 local 565-9394 email: rmwjmwaol.com or 508-651 0016

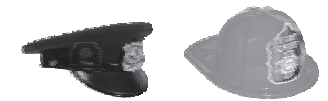
200956



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Oct. 5 Dr. Yagua-Fingal
Oct. 6 Dr. G. Croes

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Pills made from poop cure serious gut infections

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

Doctors have found a way to put healthy people's poop into pills that can cure serious gut infections — a less yucky way to do "fecal transplants." Canadian researchers tried this on 27 patients and cured them all after strong antibiotics failed to help.

It's a disgusting topic but a serious problem. Half a million Americans get *Clostridium difficile*, or C-diff, infections each year, and about 14,000 die. The germ causes nausea, cramping and diarrhea so bad it is often disabling. A very potent and pricey antibiotic can kill C-diff but also destroys good bacteria that live in the gut, leaving it more susceptible to future infections.

Recently, studies have shown that fecal transplants — giving infected people stool from a healthy donor — can restore that balance. But they're given through expensive, invasive procedures like colonoscopies or throat tubes. Doctors also have tried giving the stool through enemas but the treatment doesn't always take hold. There even are YouTube videos on how to do a similar treatment at home via an enema. A study in a medical journal of a small number of these "do-it-yourself" cases suggests the approach is safe and effective.



Dr. Thomas Louie, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Calgary, holds a container of stool pills in triple-coated gel capsules in his lab in Calgary, Alberta, Canada on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013.

Dr. Thomas Louie, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Calgary, devised a better way — a one-time treatment custom-made for each patient.

Donor stool, usually from a relative, is processed in the lab to take out food and extract the bacteria and clean it. It is packed into triple-coated gel capsules so they won't dissolve until they reach the intestines.

"There's no stool left — just stool bugs. These people

are not eating poop," and there are no smelly burps because the contents aren't released until they're well past the stomach, Louie said.

Days before starting the treatment, patients are given an antibiotic to kill the C-diff. On the morning of the treatment, they have an enema so "the new bacteria coming in have a clean slate," Louie said.

It takes 24 to 34 capsules to fit the bacteria needed for

a treatment, and patients down them in one sitting. The pills make their way to the colon and seed it with the normal variety of bacteria.

Louie described 27 patients treated this way on Thursday at IDWeek, an infectious diseases conference in San Francisco. All had suffered at least four C-diff infections and relapses, but none had a recurrence after taking the poop pills.

Margaret Corbin, 69, a re-

tired nurse's aide from Calgary, told of the misery of C-diff.

"It lasted for two years. It was horrible. I thought I was dying. I couldn't eat. Every time I ate anything or drank water I was into the bathroom," she said. "I never went anywhere, I stayed home all the time." With her daughter as the donor, she took pills made by Louie two years ago, and "I've been perfectly fine since," Corbin said.

Dr. Curtis Donskey of the Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center, who has done fecal transplants through colonoscopies, praised the work.

"The approach that Dr. Louie has is completely novel — no one else has done this," he said. "I am optimistic that this type of preparation will make these procedures much easier for patients and for physicians."

The treatment now must be made fresh for each patient so the pills don't start to dissolve at room temperature, because their water content would break down the gel coating. Minnesota doctors are testing freezing stool, which doesn't kill the bacteria, so it could be stored and shipped anywhere a patient needed it.

"You could have a universal donor in Minnesota provide a transplant for someone in Florida. That's where we're heading," Donskey said.

Other researchers are trying to find which bacteria most help fight off C-diff. Those might be grown in a lab dish and given to patients rather than the whole spectrum of bacteria in stool.

The hope is "we could administer that as a probiotic in a pill form," Donskey said.

Louie sees potential for the poop pills for other people with out-of-whack gut bacteria, such as hospitalized patients vulnerable to antibiotic-resistant germs. "This approach, to me, has wide application in medicine," he said. "So it's not just about C-diff." □

Russian cosmonaut wins wages case vs space agency

MOSCOW (AP) — A Moscow regional court on Friday upheld a lawsuit filed by a prominent cosmonaut against the Russian space training center complaining about wages.

Col. Sergei Volkov, who has logged 199 days in space, was contesting a recent government decision to strip retired military men like himself of extra pay for their space experience.

The court in the Moscow

region where the Russian cosmonauts' training ground is located upheld Volkov's lawsuit, ordering the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center to pay cosmonauts with military backgrounds for the spaceflights they have completed. It also awarded him 1.4 million rubles (\$43,500) in back wages. Extra pay for space experience for veteran cosmonauts like Volkov could be equal to their monthly salary.

The 40-year-old Volkov, who started out as a military pilot and went on long-term missions at the International Space Station in 2008 and 2011, serves as the head of the cosmonauts at the training center that he sued. Cosmonaut Sergei Zaitin told the RIA Novosti news agency that Volkov was "representing all military cosmonauts."

Instances of Russian officials suing their agencies are extremely rare. □



In this Friday, Oct. 24, 2008 file photo Russian cosmonaut Sergei Volkov shortly after landing in a Soyuz space capsule near Arkalyk, in Kazakhstan.

Associated Press

Letterman signs for CBS's 'Late Show' into 2015

NEW YORK (AP) — David Letterman, already the longest-tenured talk show host on late-night television, has agreed to extend his contract with CBS to remain on the "Late Show" into 2015. The deal means Letterman will compete directly for at least a year with the two Jimmys — Kimmel, on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live," and Fallon, who's taking over at NBC's "Tonight" show this winter. Letterman joked on Friday that he had a lengthy discussion with CBS Corp. President Leslie Moonves "and we both agreed that I needed a little more time to fully run the show into the ground." Letterman, 66, has been on the air for 31 years since beginning at NBC in the time slot following Johnny Carson in 1982. His contract was set to expire next summer. It's unclear how long into 2015 the new contract extends.

Neither CBS nor Letterman made any mention in Friday's announcement of this being a final contract at the "Late Show." In the increasingly competitive late-night world, where Letterman also competes with new Emmy Award winner Stephen Colbert on Comedy Central, Letterman averaged 2.89 million viewers for the TV season that ended last month. That's down 3 percent from the previous year.

Jay Leno and the "Tonight" show averaged 3.55 million viewers, the Nielsen ratings company said. NBC is getting ready to take Leno off "Tonight" for a second time, with his exit scheduled for Feb. 6. Fallon, who's moving the show back to New York, starts after the Winter Olympics on Feb. 24.

Kimmel's show on ABC has averaged 2.42 million viewers since it began competing directly with Letterman



In this Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2013 photo provided by CBS, actor Robin Williams, left, joins host David Letterman on the set of the "Late Show with David Letterman," in New York. CBS says Letterman has signed a contract extension to remain host of the "Late Show" into 2015.

Associated Press

and Leno in January. Letterman moved to the top of the ratings when Leno was briefly replaced

by Conan O'Brien. But Leno took over again when he returned to late night. Letterman has remained

healthy following quintuple bypass surgery that temporarily took him off the air 13 years ago. □

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Is there a statute of limitations on spoilers?

LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rosebud is a sled.

So goes the ending of the 1941 Orson Welles classic "Citizen Kane," spoilers be damned!

Revealing secret endings and plot twists has brought on wrath since the dawn of cinema, straight through VCRS to today's DVR-fueled delays that led to much nail-biting over The Ending That Shall Not Be Spoiled on "Breaking Bad." But exactly what is the magic formula for spoiler grace? When do calls of SPOILER ALERT (insert index fingers in the ears here) expire so we can, maybe, not feel so constipated when discussing our favorite fare in real time?

Does the 13-episode Netflix dump of "Orange is the New Black" in July equal two months of polite spoiler-free behavior? Are bets off when a show concludes, or does that depend on how many seasons late adopters would have to slowly, slowly slog through — say Dexter's eight to Breaking Bad's five?



This image released by Netflix shows Taylor Schilling, left, and Uzo Aduba in a scene from "Orange is the New Black." Associated Press

Or is it up to the unspoiled viewer to avoid social media or catch up? Get it done, people!

"I think asking people not to spoil for some reasonable amount of time is fine, although anyone who actually takes it seriously, i.e. gets mad or upset in the event someone does, is an idiot," said technology analyst Melanie Turek in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

"But that 'reasonable' amount of time is, in my mind, about 48 hours after a live broadcast," she explained. "And once a series is off the air and the hype has died down, asking people not to spoil is just silly."

Others think keeping some things quiet — or at least warning our Facebook friends about potential spoilers — is what 21st-century etiquette might

advise. At least that's what the ragers who decry spoilers on social media hope for. Marketer Kim Puckett in Indianapolis thinks "we're all social media-level entertainment reviewers now" so should respect our written-word audiences on newsfeeds like Twitter or in status updates on Facebook that aren't easy to escape.

"Unfortunately, specific status updates on key plot

points might be banned forever," she said.

But in other contexts, Puckett said, "as soon as the show ends, office and social talk should be allowed about the show. How can we enjoy shows at a social level if we're always worried that someone is still on Season 1 of 'The Killing' or halfway through 'Sons of Anarchy?'"

Justice is on the side of those who want to blab on Twitter or Facebook, according to Paul Levinson, a professor of communications and media studies at Fordham University and author of the book "New New, Media."

The idea that "people have a right to be free of spoilers is absurd, and it's an absurd misuse of the term 'right,'" he said.

"You have a right to communicate," Levinson assured. "I don't think anyone is entitled to that kind of grace. If you feel like writing something you're entitled to write it as long it's not slanderous or libelous or breaking the law in some way. Why anyone would get into a rage about entertainment is beyond me." □

Halle Berry to star in CBS series next summer

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS says Halle Berry will star in a serialized drama coming to the network next summer. The Oscar-winning actress will headline "Extant," a 13-episode thriller. Berry will play an astronaut trying to reconnect with her family when she returns after a year in outer space. Her experiences lead to events that change the course of history.

The series is being made in partnership with Steven Spielberg's Amblin Television, which made last summer's surprise hit for CBS, "Under the Dome." CBS announced "Extant" in August.

CBS Entertainment president Nina Tassler said Berry is the type of actress "you dream of collaborating with for an event project



In this June 13, 2013 file photo, actress Halle Berry arrives at the screening of the film "Things we Lost in the Fire" with the french title "Nos Souvenirs Brules" during the Champs-Elysees Film Festival, at the "Publicis Cinema" in Paris. Associated Press

such as 'Extant.'"

The 47-year-old Berry won an Oscar in 2002 for her starring role in "Monster's Ball." □

Singer Lauryn Hill released from prison

DANBURY, Connecticut (AP) — Grammy-winning

singer Lauryn Hill was released from federal prison Friday and will spend three months under home confinement under terms of her guilty plea to failing to pay taxes.

Hill's attorney, Nathan Hochman, said the former Fugees singer left the prison in Connecticut, on Friday. She was sentenced in July to serve three months in prison.

"Ms. Hill was released today from federal prison after serving her sentence," Hochman said in an email. "She was released several days early based on a number of factors the Bureau of Prisons takes into consideration, including good behavior. She will now start today a one-year period of probation



An April 22, 2013, file photo shows singer Lauryn Hill walking from federal court in Newark, N.J. Hill's attorney says she has been released from federal prison after serving time for failing to pay taxes. The singer left the facility in Connecticut on Friday, Oct. 4, 2013. Associated Press

with three months of home confinement during that year."

Hill, who started singing with the Fugees as a teenager in the 1990s before releasing her multiplatinum 1998 album "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," pleaded guilty last year in New Jer-

sey to failing to pay taxes on more than \$1.8 million earned from 2005 to 2007. Her sentence also took into account unpaid state and federal taxes in 2008 and 2009 that brought the total earnings to about \$2.3 million.

The South Orange, New Jersey, resident has said in online postings and at her sentencing that she stopped paying taxes after she dropped out of the music business to protect herself and her children, who now number six. At her June sentencing in federal court in Newark, she compared her experience in the music business to the slavery her ancestors endured.

Hochman says he hasn't had a chance to speak to his client since her release. □

Rebels Without A Clue



PAUL KRUGMAN
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This may be the way the world ends - not with a bang but with a temper tantrum.

OK, a temporary government shutdown - which became almost inevitable after Sunday's House vote to provide government funding only on unacceptable conditions - wouldn't be the end of the world. But a U.S. government default, which will happen unless Congress raises the debt ceiling soon, might cause financial catastrophe. Unfortunately, many Republicans either don't understand this or don't care. Let's talk first about the economics.

After the government shutdowns of 1995 and 1996 many observers concluded that such events, while clearly bad, aren't catastrophes: essential services continue, and the result is a major nuisance but no lasting harm. That's still partly true, but it's important to note that the Clinton-era shutdowns took place against the background of a booming economy. Today we have a weak economy, with falling government spending one main cause of that weakness. A shutdown would amount to a further economic hit, which could become a big deal if the shutdown went on for a long time.

Still, a government shutdown looks benign compared with the possibility that Congress might refuse to raise the debt ceiling.

First of all, hitting the ceiling would force a huge, immediate spending cut, almost surely pushing America back into recession. Beyond that, failure to raise the ceiling would mean missed payments on existing U.S. government debt. And that might have terrifying consequences.

Why? Financial markets have long treated U.S. bonds as the ultimate safe asset; the assumption that America will always honor its debts is the bedrock on which the world financial system rests. In particular, Treasury bills - short-term U.S. bonds - are what investors demand when they want absolutely solid collateral against loans. Treasury bills are so essential for this role that in times of severe stress they sometimes pay slightly negative interest rates, that is, they're treated as being better than cash.

Now suppose it became clear that U.S. bonds weren't safe, that America couldn't be counted on to honor its debts

after all. Suddenly, the whole system would be disrupted. Maybe, if we were lucky, financial institutions would quickly cobble together alternative arrangements. But it looks quite possible that default would create a huge financial crisis, dwarfing the crisis set off by the failure of Lehman Bros. five years ago.

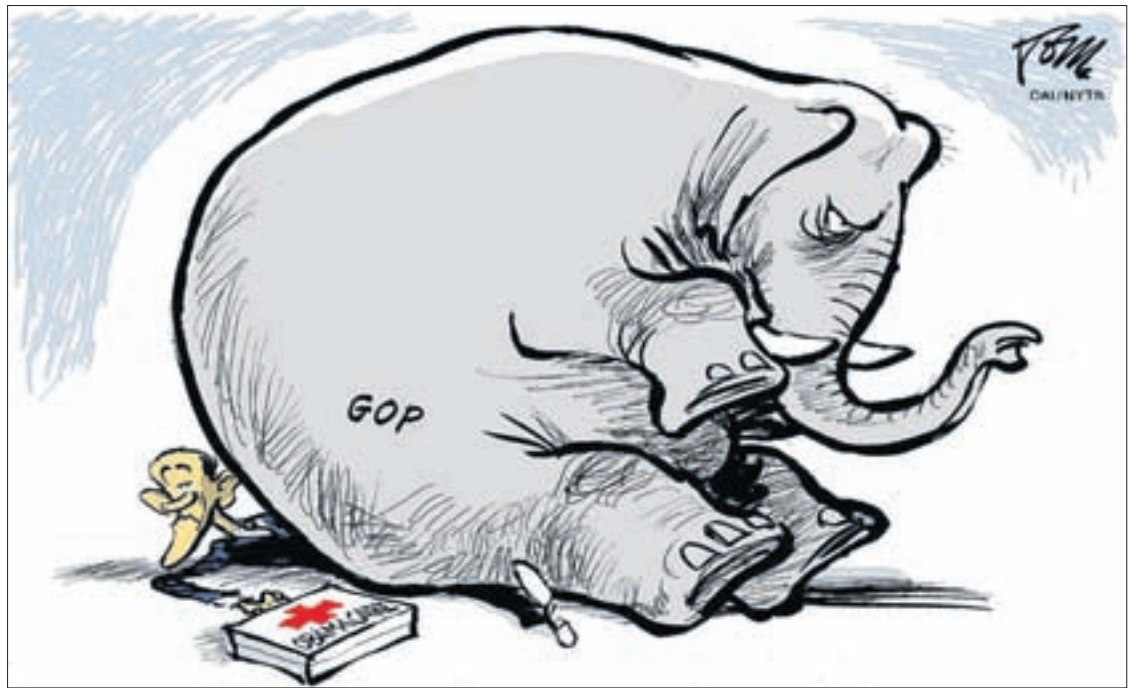
No sane political system would run this kind of risk. But we don't have a sane political system; we have a system in which a substantial number of Republicans believe that they can force President Barack Obama to cancel health reform by threatening a government shutdown, a debt default, or both, and in which Republican leaders who know better are afraid to level with the party's delusional wing. For they are delusional, about both the economics and the politics.

On the economics: Republican radicals generally reject the scientific consensus on climate change; many of them reject the theory of evolution, too. So why expect them to believe expert warnings about the dangers of default? Sure enough, they don't: The GOP caucus contains a significant number of "default deniers," who simply dismiss warnings about the dangers of failing to honor our debts.

Meanwhile, on the politics, reasonable people know that Obama can't and won't let himself be blackmailed in this way, and not just because health reform is his key policy legacy. After all, once he starts making concessions to people who threaten to blow up the world economy unless they get what they want, he might as well tear up the Constitution. But Republican radicals - and even some leaders - still insist that Obama will cave in to their demands.

So how does this end? The votes to fund the government and raise the debt ceiling are there, and always have been: Every Democrat in the House would vote for the necessary measures, and so would enough Republicans. The problem is that GOP leaders, fearing the wrath of the radicals, haven't been willing to allow such votes. What would change their minds? Ironically, considering who got us into our economic mess, the most plausible answer is that Wall Street will come to the rescue - that the big money will tell Republican leaders that they have to put an end to the nonsense. But what if even the plutocrats lack the power to rein in the radicals? In that case, Obama will either let default happen or find some way of defying the blackmailers, trading a financial crisis for a constitutional crisis.

This all sounds crazy, because it is. But the craziness, ultimately, resides not in the situation but in the minds of our politicians and the people who vote for them. Default is not in our stars, but in ourselves. □



Our Democracy Is At Stake



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
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This time is different. What is at stake in this government shutdown forced by a radical Tea Party minority is nothing less than the principle upon which our democracy is based: majority rule. President Barack Obama must not give into this hostage taking - not just because Obamacare is at stake, but because the future of how we govern ourselves is at stake. What we're seeing here is how three structural changes that have been building in American politics have now, together, reached a tipping point - creating a world in which a small minority in Congress can not only hold up their own party but the whole government. And this is the really scary part: The lawmakers doing this can do so with high confidence that they personally will not be politically punished, and may, in fact, be rewarded. When extremists feel that insulated from playing by the traditional rules of our system, if we do not defend those rules - namely majority rule and the fact that if you don't like a policy passed by Congress, signed by the president and affirmed by the Supreme Court then you have to go out and win an election to overturn it; you can't just put a fiscal gun to the country's head - then our democracy is imperiled.

This danger was neatly captured by Washington Post columnist Dana Milbank, when he wrote on Tuesday about the 11th-hour debate in Congress to avert the shutdown. Noting a shameful statement by Speaker John Boehner, Milbank wrote: "Democrats howled about 'extortion' and 'hostage taking,' which Boehner seemed to con-

firm when he came to the floor and offered: 'All the Senate has to do is say 'yes,' and the government is funded tomorrow.' It was the legislative equivalent of saying, 'Give me the money and nobody gets hurt.'"

"Give me the money and nobody gets hurt." How did we get here? First, by taking gerrymandering to a new level. The political analyst Charlie Cook, writing in *The National Journal* on March 16, noted that the 2010 election gave Republican state legislatures around the country unprecedented power to redraw political boundaries, which they used to create even more "safe, lily-white" Republican strongholds that are, in effect, an "alternative universe" to the country's diverse reality. "Between 2000 and 2010, the non-Hispanic white share of the population fell from 69 percent to 64 percent," wrote Cook. "But after the post-census redistricting and the 2012 elections, the non-Hispanic white share of the average Republican House district jumped from 73 percent to 75 percent, and the average Democratic House district declined from 52 percent white to 51 percent white. In other words, while the country continues to grow more racially diverse, the average Republican district continues to get even whiter."

According to Cook, the number of strongly Democratic districts decreased from 144 before redistricting to 136 afterward. The number of strongly Republican districts increased from 175 to 183. "When one party starts out with 47 more very strong districts than the other," said Cook, "the numbers suggest that the fix is in for any election featuring a fairly neutral environment. Republicans would need to mess up pretty badly to lose their House majority in the near future." In other words, there is little risk of political punishment for the Tea Party members now holding the country hostage.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court's inane Citizens United decision allowed a single donor, Sheldon Adelson, to create his own alternative universe. He

was able to contribute so much money to support Newt Gingrich's candidacy that Gingrich was able to stay in the Republican presidential primary race longer than he would have under sane campaign finance rules. As a result, Gingrich was able to pull the GOP's leading candidate, Mitt Romney, farther to the right longer, making it harder for him to garner centrist votes. Last month, for the first time ever in Colorado, two state senators who voted for universal background checks on gun purchases lost their seats in a recall election engineered by gun extremists and reportedly financed with some \$400,000 from the National Rifle Association. You're elected, you vote your conscience on a narrow issue, but now, determined opponents don't have to wait for the next election. With enough money, they can get rid of you in weeks.

Finally, the rise of a separate GOP (and a liberal) media universe - from talk-radio hosts, to websites to Fox News - has created another gravity-free zone, where there is no punishment for extreme behavior, but there's 1,000 lashes on Twitter if you deviate from the hard-line and great coverage to those who are most extreme. When politicians only operate inside these bubbles, they lose the habit of persuasion and opt only for coercion. After all, they must be right. Rush Limbaugh told them so.

These "legal" structural changes in money, media and redistricting are not going away. They are superempowering small political movements to act in extreme ways without consequences and thereby stymie majority rule. If democracy means anything, it means that, if you are outvoted, you accept the results and prepare for the next election. Republicans are refusing to do that. It shows contempt for the democratic process.

Obama is not defending health care. He's defending the health of our democracy. Every American who cherishes that should stand with him. □

Melt to Earth: Colorful guests around the plaza

JULIE L. BELCOVE

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NEW YORK - Coming of age in San Antonio in the 1970s and '80s, the artist Aaron Curry knew nothing about opera or ballet - or fine art, for that matter. His preferred entertainment was "Scooby-Doo" and "Jonny Quest" cartoons, "Star Trek" episodes and Iron Maiden heavy-metal music. "I grew up watching TV," he said one afternoon in the shade of Lincoln Center's leafy London plane trees. "I'd sleep with it on."

Just hours later, after the Metropolitan Opera let out, Curry began to install "Melt to Earth," his tableau of 14 ecstatically colored metal sculptures that will be scattered through Jan. 6 around Josie Robertson Plaza on the Lincoln Center campus, the city's epicenter of highbrow performance. The greatly abstracted figures form a

quirky cast of characters befitting the surrounding theaters.

Constructed of whippet-thin panels that give the illusion of space, they also create a dramatic stage set, with passers-by becoming the players.

"I like the idea that as you walk around, it compresses and almost disappears from the side," said Curry, 41.

Nicholas Baume, the director and chief curator of the Public Art Fund and a member of Lincoln Center's curatorial advisory group, said Curry's work had "a musicality, a theatricality and a playfulness" against "the grand silhouettes of the modernist buildings."

Curry, who was sitting midway between sculptures by Henry Moore and Alexander Calder, said he was not trying to be merely theatrical but to create a "visual language" that could give viewers a visceral experi-



Metal sculptures on display from "Melt to Earth," an art installation by artist Aaron Curry at the Josie Robertson Plaza at Lincoln Center in New York, Oct. 2, 2013. The plaza features 14 thin metal sculptures designed by Curry.

(Angel Franco/The New York Times)

ence. Moore and Calder are among the many art-historical references in Curry's work, which meanders from Picasso to Noguchi. "I love these artists," Curry

said. "I've looked at all of them excessively."

But he noted the influences of two former graduate school professors at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif.: Richard

Hawkins and Mike Kelley. Kelley encouraged him to explore subcultures "and not be embarrassed by it," he said; Curry applied Hawkins' concept of collage to his own sculpture. □

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